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CRIME CASES

CRIME CASES

COMICS

SEPT. NO. 7

10¢

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"FUGITIVE AT LARGE!"

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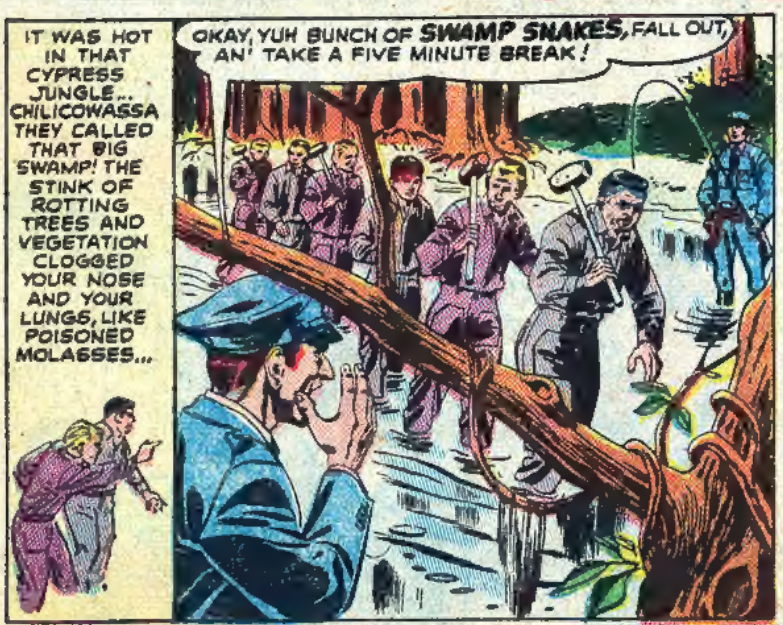
FUGITIVE at LARGE

I'LL DROP THE MASK, BECAUSE WHAT I'M SAYING NOW IS FOR MY LIFE! I'D RATHER SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE IN STIR THAN IN THIS LIVING DEATH I'M IN NOW! NICK LARGO IS MY NAME, AND YOU CAN QUIT LAUGHING RIGHT NOW! I'LL TAKE THE RAP FOR EVERYTHING I EVER DID... MURDER, ROBBERY... ANYTHING! I DON'T CARE WHAT THE COPS OR NEWSPAPERS SAY... I'M NOT DEAD! I'M HERE, ALIVE, TALKING! I'LL TAKE YOU RIGHT BACK TO THE DAY AND HOUR THIS THING STARTED... BACK TO THE MORNING OF AUGUST 12TH, 1934...
A TRUE CRIME STORY TOLD IN THE EXACT WORDS OF THE CRIMINAL... NICK LARGO!
DEATH! JAIL! TORTURE! ANYTHING WOULD BE BETTER THAN THE GHASTLY, HORRIBLE FATE THAT BEFELL, NICK LARGO! WHAT WAS IT?... WELL, READ ON, AND SEE!...
8683
T. DIPRETA


IT WAS HOT IN THAT CYPRESS JUNGLE... CHILICOWASSA THEY CALLED THAT BIG SWAMP! THE STINK OF ROTTING TREES AND VEGETATION CLOGGED YOUR NOSE AND YOUR LUNGS, LIKE POISONED MOLASSES...
OKAY, YUH BUNCH OF SWAMP SNAKES, FALL OUT, AN' TAKE A FIVE MINUTE BREAK!

WE SANK IN THE STINKY MIRE, LIKE HOGS, THANKFUL FOR THE REST...
THE DIRTY SWINE! YOU'D THINK THEY WERE DOIN' US A FAVOR, LETTIN' US REST IN THIS STINKIN' MUD! HOW I HATE THEIR GUTS!
IT WON'T BE LONG NOW, WHITEY! IF THE REST OF THE GANG PITCHES IN, WE'LL BE ON THE LOOSE BY SUNDOWN!

ALL NAMES AND PLACES IN THESE TRUE-TO-LIFE STORIES ARE FICTITIOUS
ANY SIMILARITY BETWEEN ACTUAL PERSONS OR PLACES AND THOSE USED IN THESE STORIES IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL

I NEVER HEARD OF ANYONE EVER GETTIN' THROUGH THESE SWAMPS! IF WE DO IT'LL BE A MIRACLE, NICK!
YEAH? I'D RATHER LOSE MY LIFE THAN SPEND ANOTHER DAY IN THIS HOLE! FOUR YEARS IS ENOUGH! I GOT ONE YEAR TO GO, BUT I DON'T FIGURE ON SPENDING THAT ONE HERE!
ON YOUR FEET! HURRY! MOVE YOUR FLEA-BITTEN HIDES! YOU ALL THINK THIS IS A FANCY MEMPHIS HOTEL?
WE SWEATED BLOOD IN THOSE QUARRY PITS, WHILE THE SUN BROILED DOWN! BUT FOR ME AND WHITEY PRICE IT WAS THE LAST DAY...
HERE COMES JIM AND BARTON! YOU KEEP WORKING WHILE I TALK TO THEM!
OKAY...OKAY! WATCH OUT FOR MS LANE! I THINK HE SUSPECTS SOMETHING IS UP!
ARE WE ALL SET?
ALL SET! WE GOT THE PIT DUG DEEP AND COVERED WITH SCRAP ROCK! WE ALL BROUGHT AS MUCH CHOW AS WE COULD STEAL! IT'S DOWN IN THE PIT!
WE SURE HOPE YOU GET THROUGH! BETTER TAKE OFF AS SOON AS IT GETS DARK! IF THEM HOUNDS GET YOUR SCENT, THEY'LL RIP YOUR HIDES OFF!
WE'LL MAKE IT! SAY, "THANKS," TO THE GANG FOR US!
HEY, DOWN THERE! BREAK IT UP, BEFORE I BUST YOUR SPINES! YOU'LL DO YOUR GABBING IN THE SWEAT-BOX TONIGHT!
GUARD
THE SWAMP GANG MOVED IN, ABOUT SUNDOWN, AND WHILE THE GUARDS CHECKED OUT DETAILS, WE MADE THE BREAK...
GET GOIN', NICK! WE'LL KICK SOME RUBBLE OVER THE HOLE!
2

THEY FIRST MISSED US WHEN THEY TOOK THE QUARRY ROLL CALL! WE HUDDLED IN THAT CRAMPED HOLE, LISTENING TO THE GUARDS ROAR AND THE WHIPS CRACK...
HOLY SMOKES! LISTEN TO THEM COPS LET OFF STEAM! THEY'LL TURN THE PLACE UPSIDE DOWN BEFORE THEY HERD THE GANG BACK TO THE CAMP!
NO THEY WON'T! THEY FIGURE WE'RE GONE, SO THEY'LL GO RIGHT BACK AND GET THE HOUNDS!

WE CRAWLED OUT WHEN THE VOICES FADED DOWN THE ROAD...
I GOT A COMPASS! LET'S GO, WHITEY! NO TALKIN' AND NO BREAKS! WE'VE GOT TO LOSE THEM HOUNDS IN THE SWAMPS!

THE MOON WAS HIGH AND WE WERE STILL FLOUNDERING IN THE STREAMING MUCK OF THE SWAMPS! WAY BACK, WE COULD HEAR THE HOUNDS BAYING...
I... CAN'T... KEEP UP, NICK! I... GOTTA... R... REST!
N... NO RESTING! YOU H... HEAR THEM HOUNDS? THEY'RE GAININ' ON US! THEY KNOW THEIR WAY THROUGH THESE JUNGLES!
OWO OOOOO

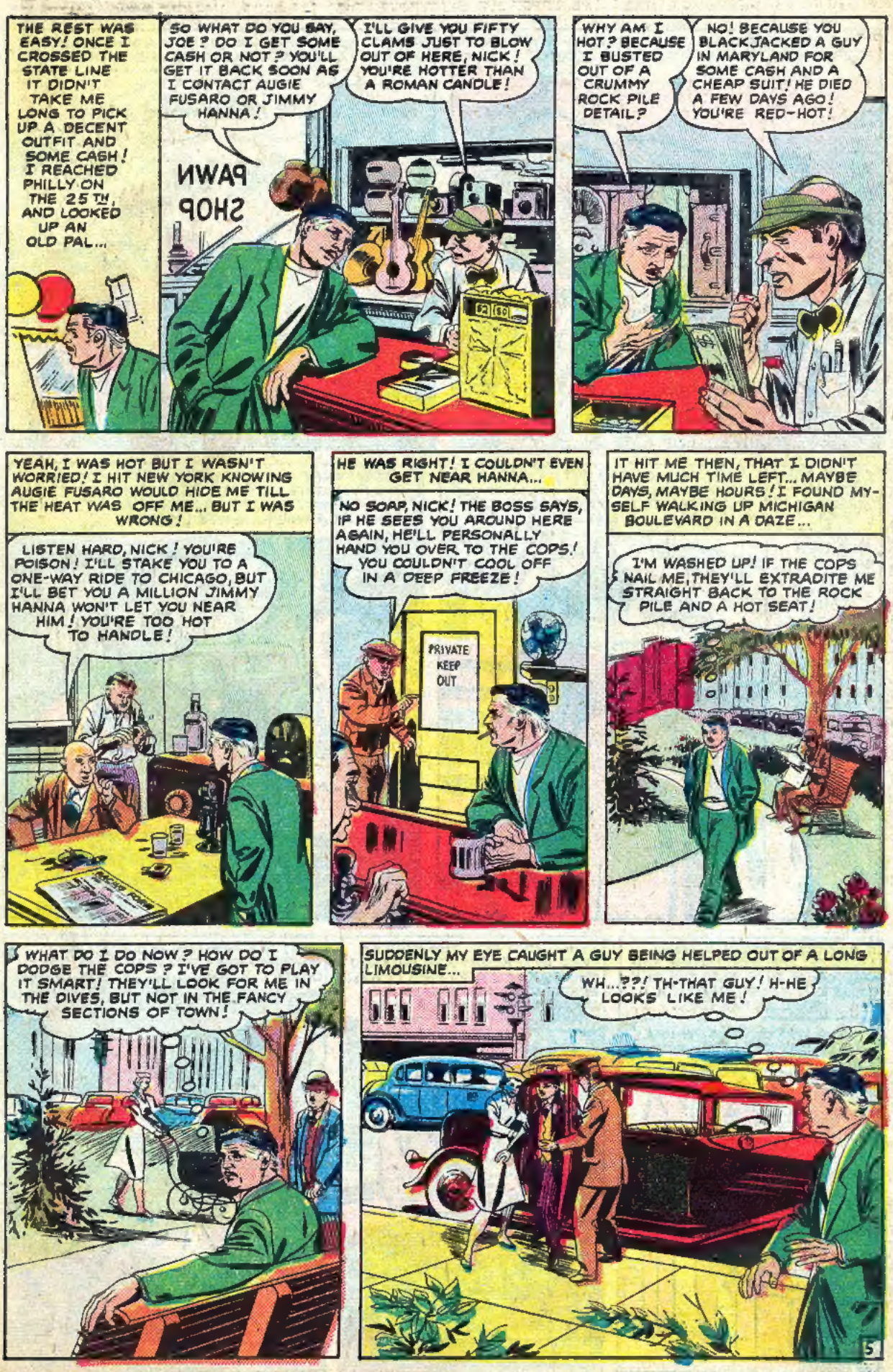
C-CAN'T... MAKE IT, NICK!
YOU GOTTA MAKE IT! ONE OF THEM HOUNDS HAS BROKEN LOOSE! HE'LL PICK US UP F-FOR SURE, AND THEN IT'LL BE CURTAINS!
OOOOOWOOOOOOO

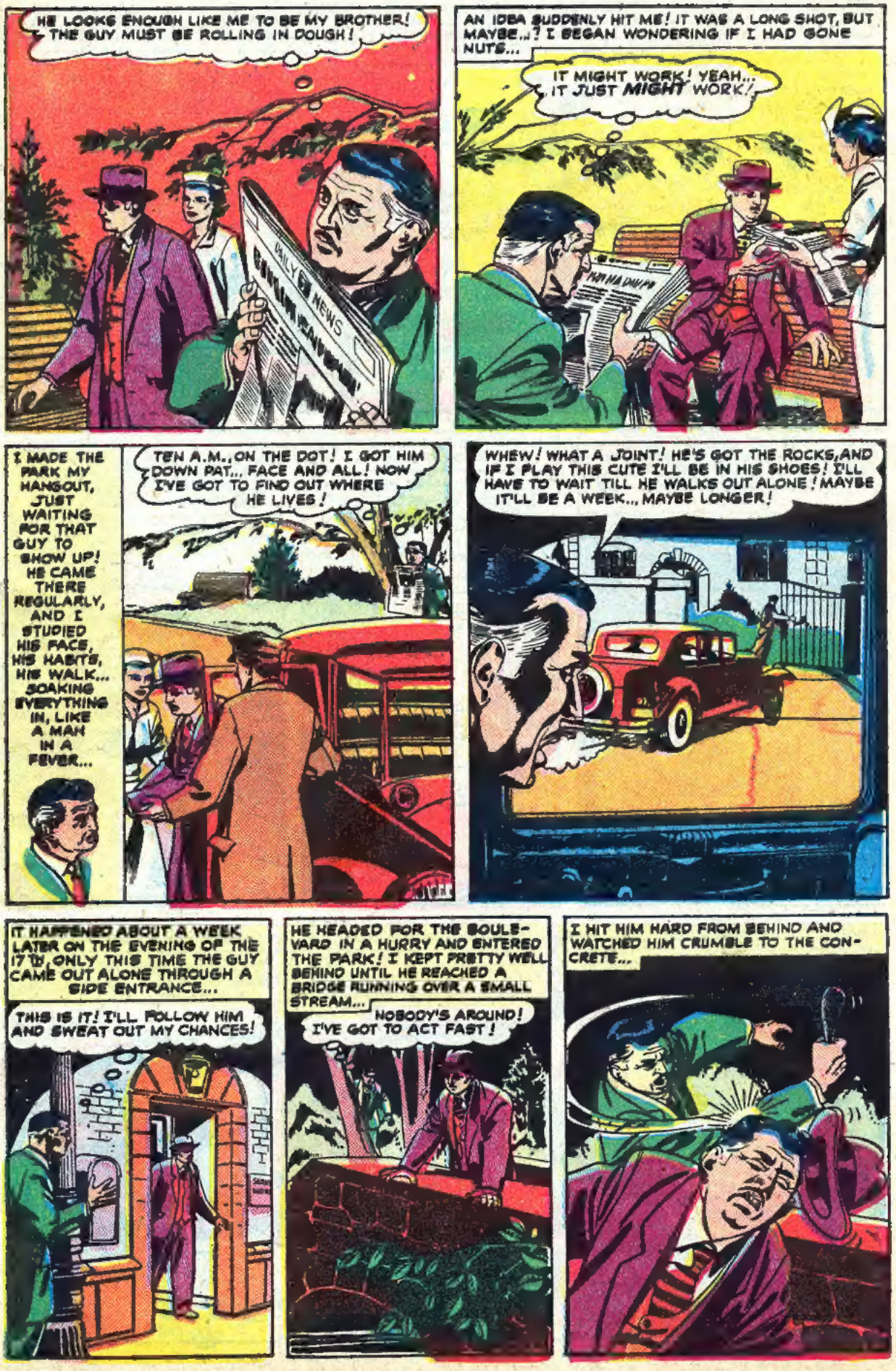
NO USE RUNNING ANY MORE! THAT HOUND'S GONE RAVING MAD! GET UP, WHITEY! HANG ON TO A TREE OR SOMETHING!
OOWOOOO, OWOOOOOO

GRROWRR! OWOOOOOO!
C'MON, BUSTER! COME AND GET IT!

I DUCKED AS HE SPRANG, AND SENT MY HOME-MADE SHIV SLICING INTO HIM, WISHING IT WERE ONE OF HIS MASTERS INSTEAD...
GRROWRRRRR!
3

WE LIVED IN THAT SWAMP FOR THREE DAYS, LIKE ANIMALS! OUR FOOD AND WATER GAVE OUT WHILE WE STILL STRUGGLED TO REACH SOLID GROUND...
LEMME GO! I W-WANNA LAY DOWN! LEGGO OF ME!
YOU'RE NUTS WITH FEVER! WE'RE ALMOST OUT I'M TELLIN' YOU! I CAN FEEL THE GROUND GETTIN' HARDER!
WE RIPPED OUR WAY THROUGH THE LAST OF THE BOG, TOWARDS EVENING, AND COLLAPSED...
THERE'S A F-FARMHOUSE, NICK! I GOTTA GET FOOD AND WATER! LET'S CLIP THE PLACE!
ARE YOU NUTS? YOU RAISE SOME TROUBLE AROUND HERE AND THE COPS WILL BE ON US LIKE A SWARM OF BEES! IT'S LIKE TELLIN' 'EM WHERE WE ARE!
I AIN'T WAITIN'! I'M GOIN' FOR FOOD AND W-WATER!
COME BACK! COME BACK, YOU FOOL! I SHOULD HAVE LET YOU ROT IN THAT SWAMP! GET BACK HERE!
I WANTED TO RUN, BUT I WATCHED! THE DOOR OPENED, AND WHITEY LUNGED INSIDE LIKE A MANIAC...
IT WAS QUIET FOR A WHILE, THEN SUDDENLY I HEARD A SHOTGUN BLAST, AND SAW WHITEY GET BLOWN OUT...
HE G-GOT BLASTED! I BETTER GET GOING!
BAM
I PLUNGED BACK INTO THE SWAMPS TRYING TO HEAD NORTH! WHEN IT RAINED I LET MY RAGS GET SOAKED, AND THEN SQUEEZED THEM DRY FOR WATER...
THE NEXT DAY I HIT A SMALL FISHING CAMP...
UNDERWEAR, SHIRT AND PANTS! THAT'LL GIVE ME A START!
4


THE REST WAS EASY! ONCE I CROSSED THE STATE LINE IT DIDN'T TAKE ME LONG TO PICK UP A DECENT OUTFIT AND SOME CASH! I REACHED PHILLY ON THE 25TH, AND LOOKED UP AN OLD PAL...
SO WHAT DO YOU SAY, JOE? DO I GET SOME CASH OR NOT? YOU'LL GET IT BACK SOON AS I CONTACT AUGIE FUSARO OR JIMMY HANNA!
I'LL GIVE YOU FIFTY CLAMS JUST TO BLOW OUT OF HERE, NICK! YOU'RE HOTTER THAN A ROMAN CANDLE!
PAWN SHOP
WHY AM I HOT? BECAUSE I BUSTED OUT OF A CRUMMY ROCK PILE DETAIL?
NO! BECAUSE YOU BLACKJACKED A GUY IN MARYLAND FOR SOME CASH AND A CHEAP SUIT! HE DIED A FEW DAYS AGO! YOU'RE RED-HOT!
YEAH, I WAS HOT BUT I WASN'T WORRIED! I HIT NEW YORK KNOWING AUGIE FUSARO WOULD HIDE ME TILL THE HEAT WAS OFF ME... BUT I WAS WRONG!
LISTEN HARD, NICK! YOU'RE POISON! I'LL STAKE YOU TO A ONE-WAY RIDE TO CHICAGO, BUT I'LL BET YOU A MILLION JIMMY HANNA WON'T LET YOU NEAR HIM! YOU'RE TOO HOT TO HANDLE!
HE WAS RIGHT! I COULDN'T EVEN GET NEAR HANNA...
NO SOAP, NICK! THE BOSS SAYS, IF HE SEES YOU AROUND HERE AGAIN, HE'LL PERSONALLY HAND YOU OVER TO THE COPS! YOU COULDN'T COOL OFF IN A DEEP FREEZE!
PRIVATE KEEP OUT
IT HIT ME THEN, THAT I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT... MAYBE DAYS, MAYBE HOURS! I FOUND MYSELF WALKING UP MICHIGAN BOULEVARD IN A DAZE...
I'M WASHED UP! IF THE COPS NAIL ME, THEY'LL EXTRADITE ME STRAIGHT BACK TO THE ROCK PILE AND A HOT SEAT!
WHAT DO I DO NOW? HOW DO I DODGE THE COPS? I'VE GOT TO PLAY IT SMART! THEY'LL LOOK FOR ME IN THE DIVES, BUT NOT IN THE FANCY SECTIONS OF TOWN!
SUDDENLY MY EYE CAUGHT A GUY BEING HELPED OUT OF A LONG LIMOUSINE...
WH...??! TH-THAT GUY! H-HE LOOKS LIKE ME!
5


HE LOOKS ENOUGH LIKE ME TO BE MY BROTHER! THE GUY MUST BE ROLLING IN DOUGH!
DAILY NEWS
AN IDEA SUDDENLY HIT ME! IT WAS A LONG SHOT, BUT MAYBE...? I BEGAN WONDERING IF I HAD GONE NUTS...
IT MIGHT WORK! YEAH... IT JUST MIGHT WORK!
I MADE THE PARK MY HANGOUT, JUST WAITING FOR THAT GUY TO SHOW UP! HE CAME THERE REGULARLY, AND I STUDIED HIS FACE, HIS HABITS, HIS WALK... SOAKING EVERYTHING IN, LIKE A MAN IN A FEVER...
TEN A.M., ON THE DOT! I GOT HIM DOWN PAT... FACE AND ALL! NOW I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHERE HE LIVES!
WHEW! WHAT A JOINT! HE'S GOT THE ROCKS, AND IF I PLAY THIS CUTE I'LL BE IN HIS SHOES! I'LL HAVE TO WAIT TILL HE WALKS OUT ALONE! MAYBE IT'LL BE A WEEK... MAYBE LONGER!
IT HAPPENED ABOUT A WEEK LATER ON THE EVENING OF THE 17TH, ONLY THIS TIME THE GUY CAME OUT ALONE THROUGH A SIDE ENTRANCE...
THIS IS IT! I'LL FOLLOW HIM AND SWEAT OUT MY CHANCES!
HE HEADED FOR THE BOULEVARD IN A HURRY AND ENTERED THE PARK! I KEPT PRETTY WELL BEHIND UNTIL HE REACHED A BRIDGE RUNNING OVER A SMALL STREAM...
NOBODY'S AROUND! I'VE GOT TO ACT FAST!
I HIT HIM HARD FROM BEHIND AND WATCHED HIM CRUMBLE TO THE CONCRETE...

HALF AN HOUR LATER I WAS WALKING OUT OF THE PARK DRESSED IN HIS CLOTHING, WHILE HE WAS SCRAPING THE BOTTOM OF THE STREAM IN MINE!
MR. CLAYTON VAN HORN, THAT'S ME! NICK LARGO IS DEAD! I EVEN LEFT ENOUGH OF MY OWN TAGS ON HIM TO HELP THE BULLS IDENTIFY HIM! I CAN USE THE DOUGH HE HAD IN HIS FAT WALLET!
FOR A WEEK I LIVED THE LIFE OF REILLY, OR, VAN HORN! I ATE IN THE BEST SPOTS AND SLEPT IN CLASSY HOTELS, UNTIL ONE DAY...
S..SAY, WH...??!
NOW, JUST BEHAVE NICELY, MR. VAN HORN! WE'LL HAVE YOU HOME IN A FEW MINUTES AND EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT!
RESTAURANT 116
I WAS THINKING FAST, TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO PLAY THE DEAL! ONE THING WAS SURE! THEY DIDN'T KNOW I WAS NICK LARGO...
YOU'VE CAUSED A GREAT DEAL OF TROUBLE, MR. VAN HORN! EVERYBODY HAS BEEN WONDERING WHERE YOU DISAPPEARED TO!
IT'S OKAY... OKAY! MAYBE I'M BETTER THAN I WAS BEFORE! THEY DON'T SUSPECT A THING!
THE MANSION GATE SWUNG OPEN AND THEY DELIVERED ME... YEAH, DELIVERED ME LIKE A STRAYED STEER TO THE SLAUGHTER-HOUSE...
HERE HE IS, DOC! WE FOUND HIM NEAR THE BREVOORT!
WELCOME HOME, CLAYTON! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE SUCH A FOOLISH THING!
HEY, WHAT KIND OF A GAG IS THIS?
IT HIT ME THEN, LIKE A SLEDGE HAMMER BASHING INTO MY HEAD! I TRIED TO STRUGGLE, BUT THEY SEEMED TO EXPECT IT FROM ME...
LET GO! LET ME OUT OF HERE! I'M NO VAN HORN! I'M NICK LARGO! I'LL TAKE ANY RAP YOU HAND OUT, BUT LET GO OF ME!
TSK, TSK! HE'S GETTING VIOLENT AGAIN! TAKE HIM TO THE SHOCK WARD AND PREPARE HIM FOR NERVE BLOCKS!
LISTEN... LISTEN TO ME! CHECK MY PRINTS! I'M NICK LARGO! THE GUY YOU WANT IS DROWNED IN THE PARK! I KILLED HIM AND TOOK HIS DUDS! LET ME OUT!
DELUSIONS AGAIN! IT'S REALLY TOO BAD, MR. VAN HORN! YOU HAVE GREAT ACTING TALENTS! WE PERMITTED YOU TO VISIT THE PARK BECAUSE IT SEEMED TO BE DOING YOU SOME GOOD! TSK, TSK! TOO BAD!
I'M NICK LARGO! COME BACK! LISTEN TO ME! I CAN PROVE IT! CALL THE CHILICOWASSA PRISON! THEY'LL TELL YOU WHO I AM!
NOW, HOW DID HE KNOW ABOUT THE LARGO CASE... YOU KNOW THE ONE WHO WAS FOUND DROWNED IN THE PARK? IT'S REALLY QUITE AMAZING!
AND TO THIS DAY NICK LARGO IS STILL AN INMATE! HE TELLS HIS STORY TO EVERY VISITOR... HE SCREAMS FOR JUSTICE... BUT WHAT IS JUSTICE IN THIS STRANGE CASE?
SUBSCRIBE NOW! $1.20 FOR NEXT 12 ISSUES!
CRIME CASES SUITE 1404 350 5TH AVE. NEW YORK CITY 10
THE END

NOT MURDER... JUST REVENGE!

KEENE hefted his small fat body into the barber's chair.

"C'mon, c'mon," he snapped, "I ain't got all day. Get it over with, and take plenty off the top! I got an important appointment!"

He settled back in the chair and when he didn't feel the barber's cloth settle over him, he turned to look up at the man who was going to clip his hair.

"Well what—"

He looked up. Right into Fenwick's face. Fear surged through his body and then anger and then suddenly he felt old. Instinctively he reached for the shoulder holster where he kept his .32 automatic. Of course. It wouldn't be there. It was never there when he needed it. And naturally the place was empty. Wouldn't do any good at all to go yelling for help.

"Hello, Rusty," said Fenwick. His voice was hoarse like gravel the way it always was. "You're looking kind of peaked. Surprised to see me?"

Rusty Keene turned away. "Gimme the haircut. I ain't got nothing I want to talk to you about."

"I guess I can understand that, Rusty." Fenwick put the striped cloth over Keene's body, tucked it in at the neck and started to clip hair.

He wouldn't try anything here, thought Rusty Keene. Years ago when he was a big shot racketeer he might've tried something if he had been able to get him alone, in a spot like this. He remembered the day when he, Rusty Keene, a kid who wanted to get into the big time more than he wanted to see a Brooklyn-Yankee game, first came into George Fenwick's apartment.

Fenwick had been there with his wife, Edith, and two of his tough-boys. Fenwick had said to him: "So you're the kid who wants to join my gang. Why?"

"Because I'm smart."

"What makes you think I want smart boys working with me?"

"You do."

"You hear that, Edith?" he said, turning to his wife. "He thinks I want smart boys working for me." He turned back to Rusty. "What makes you think you're smart, and why should I let you work for me even if you are?"

Keene lit a cigarette, and helped himself to the decanter of scotch on the sideboard. "Because I happen to know who pulled the Fur Exchange job over on the west side last month. I know your technique and I been nosing around. I'm smart enough to keep my mouth shut if you give me a break."

George Fenwick had turned red at that. He stepped forward as if he were going to grab Rusty by the throat, but he held himself in check. "Okay," he said, "you'll do. Consider yourself on the payroll."

He watched Fenwick's hands now as they hovered over him, clipping his hair. The tension clicked up and down his spine like soap against a washboard. Fenwick had always had deft hands that reminded you of a pianist caressing the black and whites, or a harpist plucking the strings. Fenwick had a lot to want revenge for. Rusty had been the one behind the frame-up that sent the big time racketeer to prison. Rusty had been the one who took over, everything, except Fenwick's wife—and her he killed.

He'd planned it for a long time. He'd always felt that he

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT STORY...

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(Names on request)

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Mrs. H. S., Rolla, Mo.

"— made me sleep so much better and it improved my appetite so much"
S. A. L., Sanford, Fla.

"I am so delighted with NUMAL — it has improved me very much — my friends just rave at me"
M. W., Waycross, Ga.

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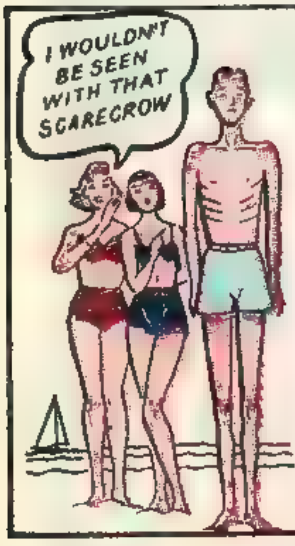
Mrs. M. D. C., Baton Rouge, La.

"I think NUMAL is wonderful My husband says I look better and I feel better"
Mrs. C. L., Rutland, Vt



SKINNY MEN ARE NOT ATTRACTIVE EITHER

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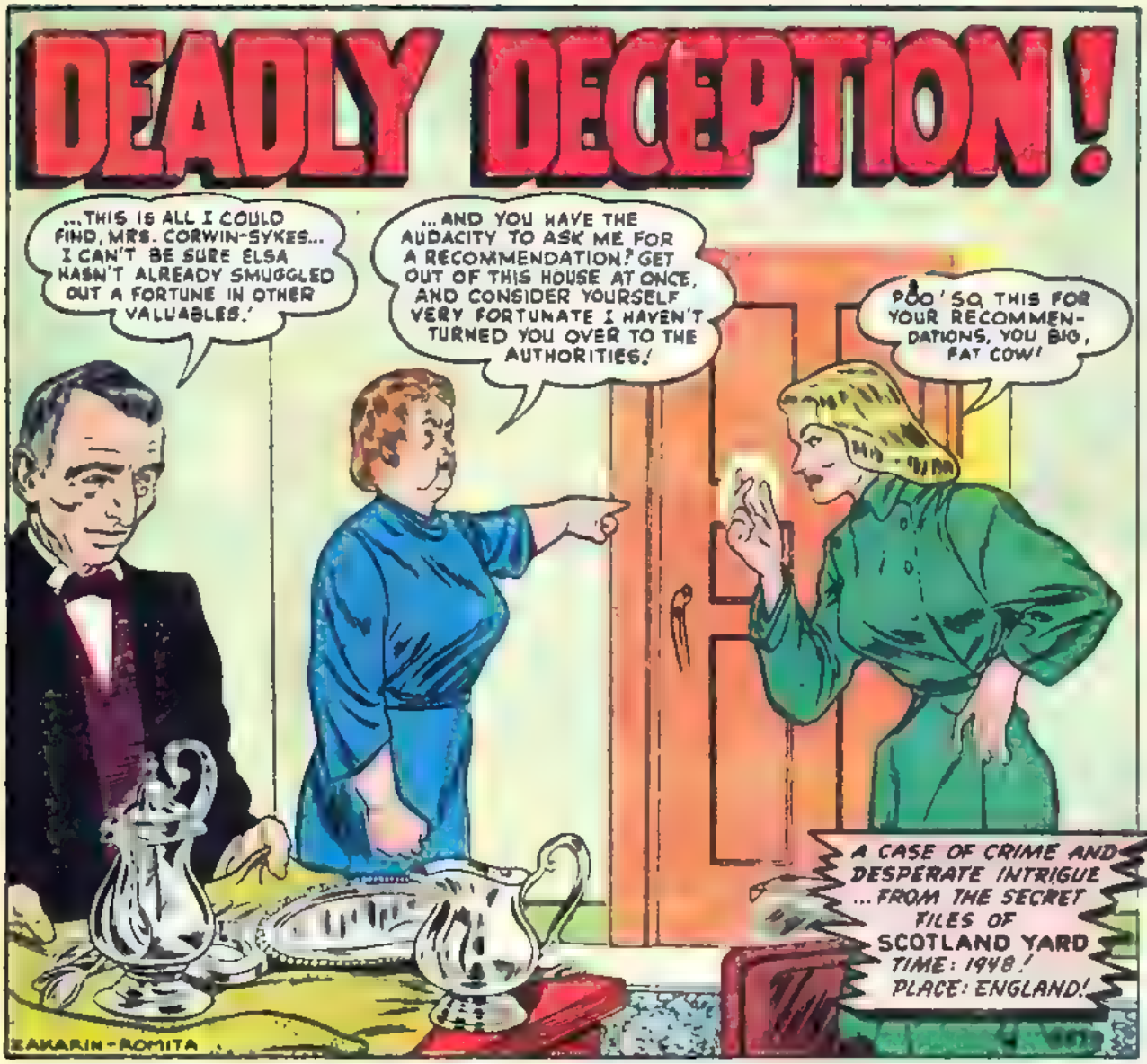
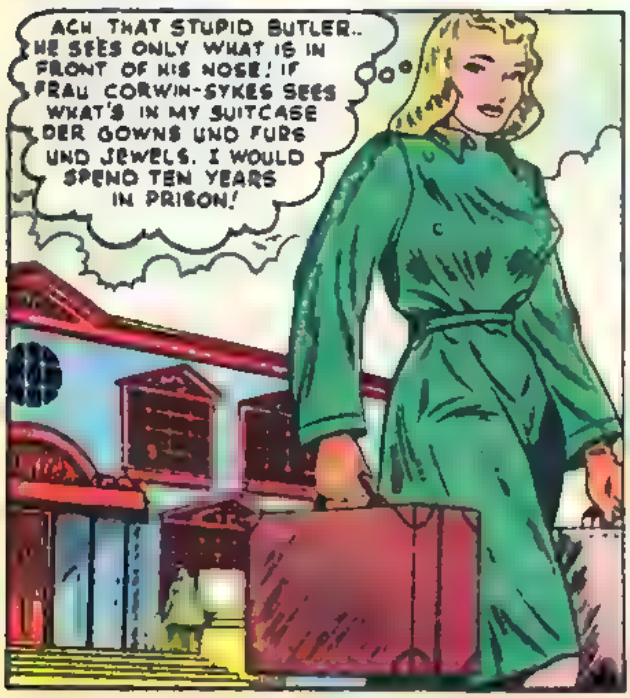
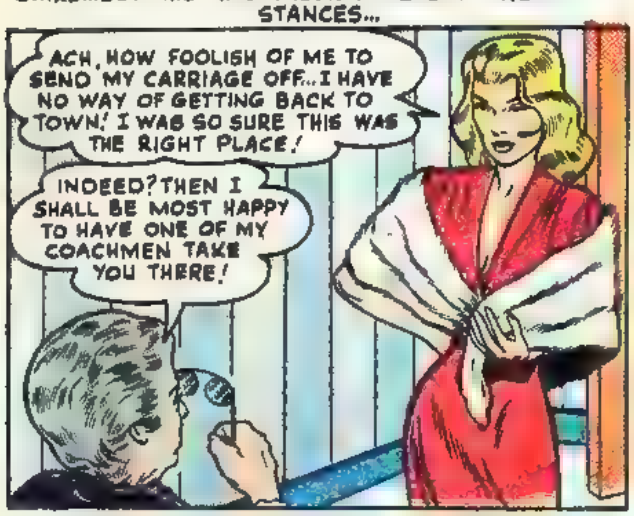
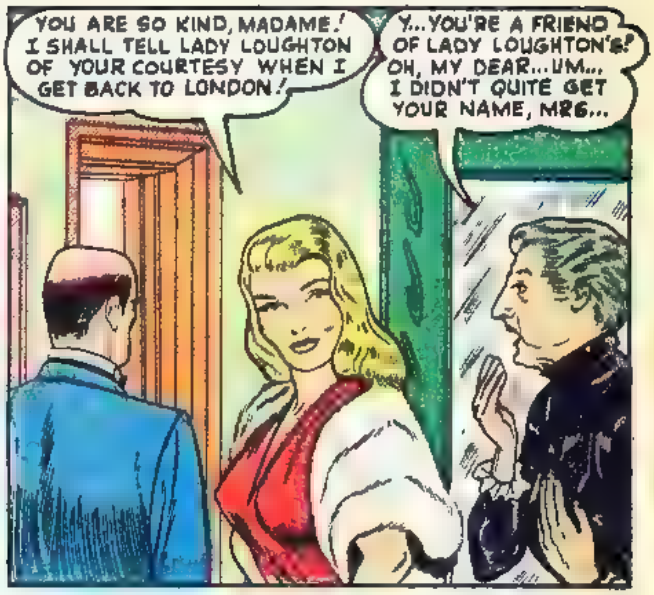

...THIS IS ALL I COULD FIND, MRS. CORWIN-SYKES... I CAN'T BE SURE ELSA HASN'T ALREADY SMUGGLED OUT A FORTUNE IN OTHER VALUABLES.'
...AND YOU HAVE THE AUDACITY TO ASK ME FOR A RECOMMENDATION? GET OUT OF THIS HOUSE AT ONCE, AND CONSIDER YOURSELF VERY FORTUNATE I HAVEN'T TURNED YOU OVER TO THE AUTHORITIES!
POO! SO THIS FOR YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS, YOU BIG, FAT COW!
A CASE OF CRIME AND DESPERATE INTRIGUE ...FROM THE SECRET FILES OF SCOTLAND YARD
TIME: 1948!
PLACE: ENGLAND!
ZAKARIN-ROMITA

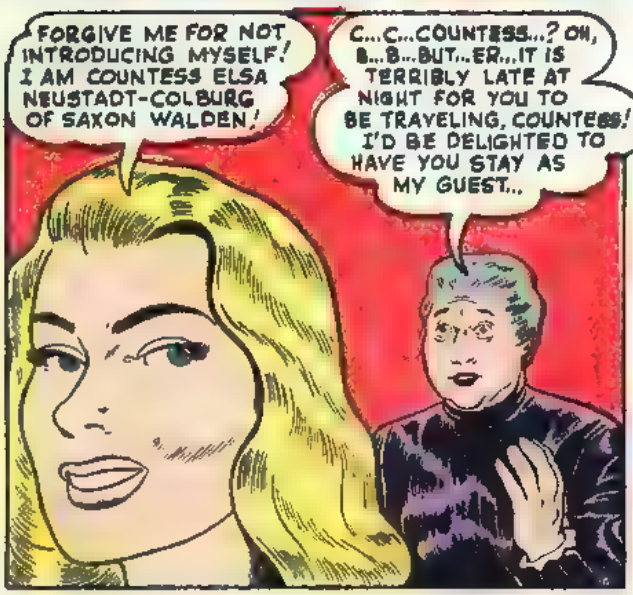

ACH THAT STUPID BUTLER.. HE SEES ONLY WHAT IS IN FRONT OF HIS NOSE! IF FRAU CORWIN-SYKES SEES WHAT'S IN MY SUITCASE DER GOWNS UND FURS UND JEWELS. I WOULD SPEND TEN YEARS IN PRISON!

I CAN MAKE TWO GOWNS OUT OF ONE OF HERS...JA. I COULD LOOK LIKE A REAL LADY, BETTER THAN THE FAT, OLD FRAU CORWIN-SYKES, BUT IT WILL DO ME NO GOOD UNLESS PEOPLE TREAT ME LIKE A LADY

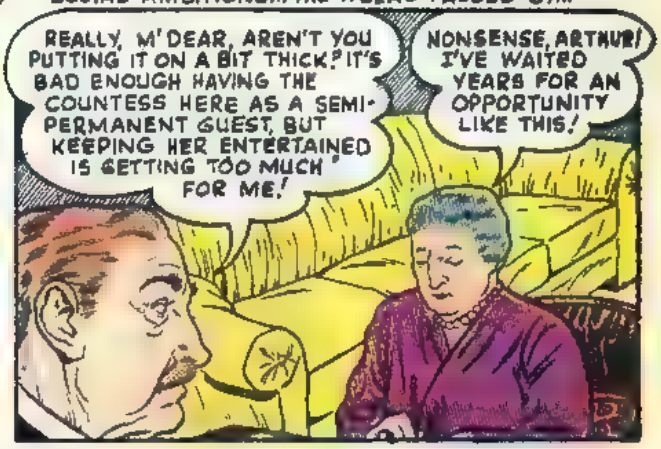
A FEW MONTHS LATER, ELSA NEUBACHER TURNED UP AT ANOTHER GREAT ESTATE, WORLEY HALL, IN DEVONSHIRE...BUT THIS TIME UNDER DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES...


ACH, HOW FOOLISH OF ME TO SEND MY CARRIAGE OFF...I HAVE NO WAY OF GETTING BACK TO TOWN! I WAS SO SURE THIS WAS THE RIGHT PLACE!
INDEED? THEN I SHALL BE MOST HAPPY TO HAVE ONE OF MY COACHMEN TAKE YOU THERE!


YOU ARE SO KIND, MADAME! I SHALL TELL LADY LOUGHTON OF YOUR COURTESY WHEN I GET BACK TO LONDON!
Y...YOU'RE A FRIEND OF LADY LOUGHTON'S? OH, MY DEAR...UM... I DIDN'T QUITE GET YOUR NAME, MRS...

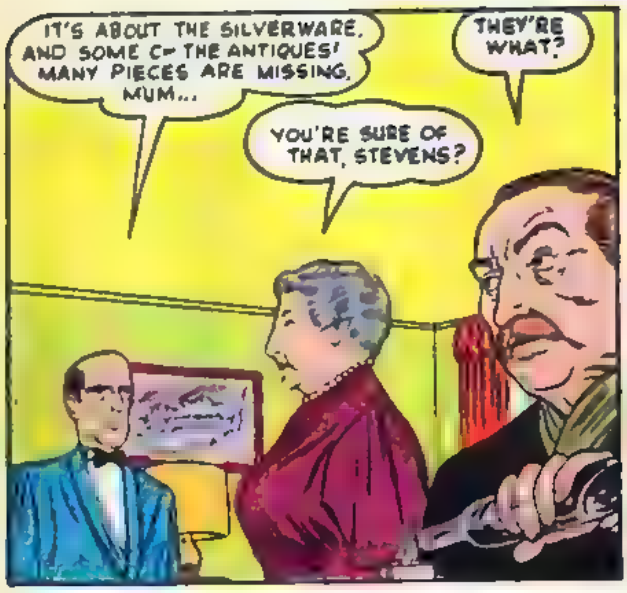

FORGIVE ME FOR NOT INTRODUCING MYSELF! I AM COUNTESS ELSA NEUSTADT-COLBURG OF SAXON WALDEN!
C...C...COUNTESS...? OH, B...B...BUT...ER...IT IS TERRIBLY LATE AT NIGHT FOR YOU TO BE TRAVELING, COUNTESS! I'D BE DELIGHTED TO HAVE YOU STAY AS MY GUEST...

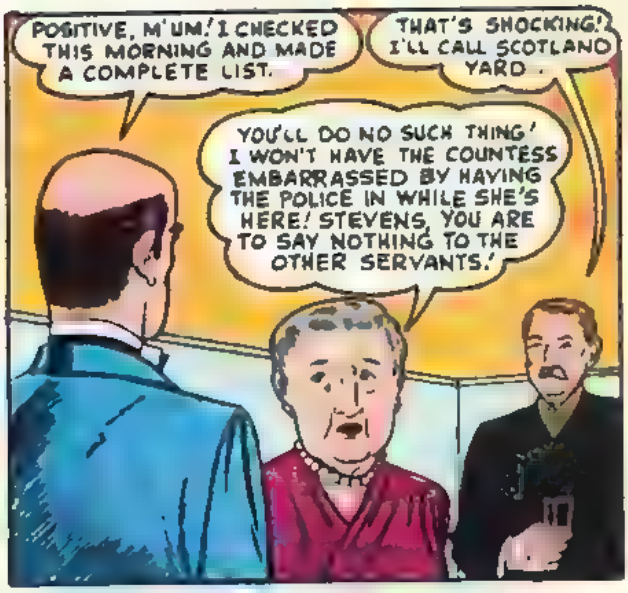
IT WAS NO ACCIDENT THAT BROUGHT ELSA NEUBACHER, POSING AS A COUNTESS, TO WORLEY HALL! IN THE PARLANCE OF GANGDOM, SHE HAD CASED THE JOINT CAREFULLY! BEFOREHAND, ELSA HAD LEARNED THAT MRS. WORLEY WAS A VERY WEALTHY WOMAN, WITH GREAT SOCIAL AMBITIONS...THE WEEKS PASSED BY...


REALLY, M'DEAR, AREN'T YOU PUTTING IT ON A BIT THICK? IT'S BAD ENOUGH HAVING THE COUNTESS HERE AS A SEMI-PERMANENT GUEST, BUT KEEPING HER ENTERTAINED IS GETTING TOO MUCH FOR ME!
NONSENSE, ARTHUR! I'VE WAITED YEARS FOR AN OPPORTUNITY LIKE THIS!

OH? I'M NOT SURE I UNDERSTAND!
THE COUNTESS WILL BE MY IN WITH THE BETTER PEOPLE OF DEVONSHIRE! I'M GIVING A BALL IN HER HONOR, AND I'M INVITING NOT ONLY THE VERY UPPER CRUST, BUT SOME OF THOSE WHO'VE GONE OUT OF THEIR WAY TO SNUB ME IN THE PAST! I'LL SHOW THEM!

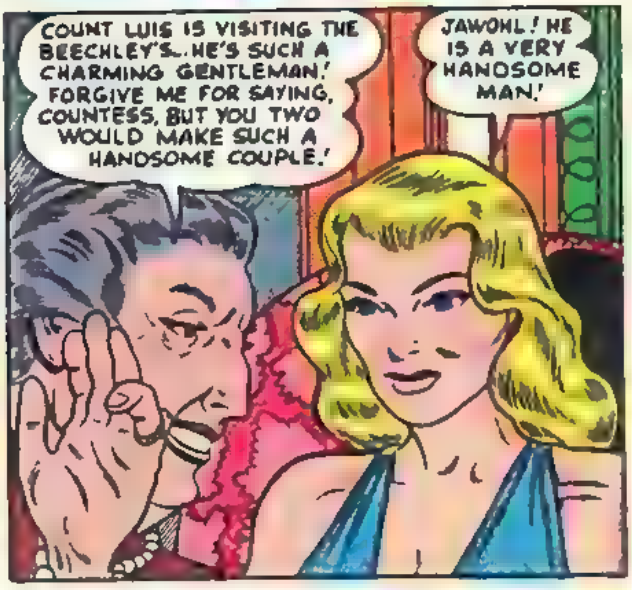
...BEGGING YOUR PARDON, M'UM, BUT I HAVE A MATTER OF IMPORTANCE TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION...
CAN'T YOU SEE I'M BUSY, STEVENS? WELL, WHAT IS IT?



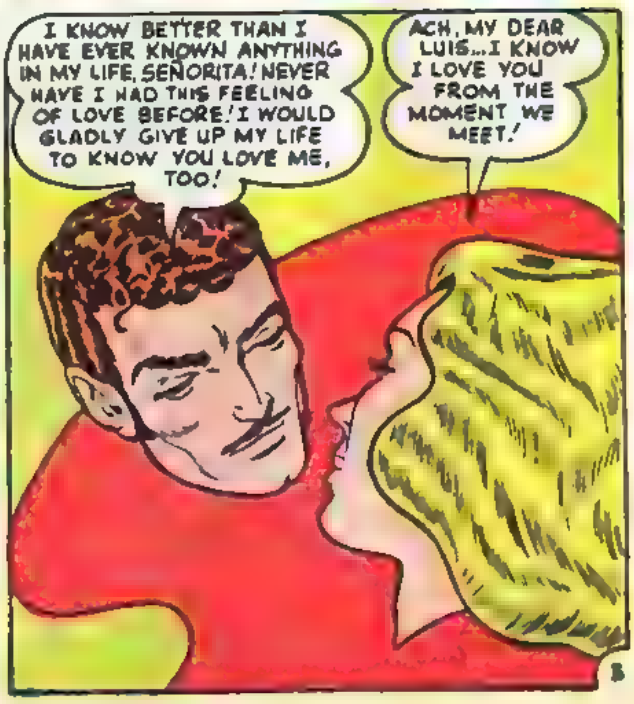

POSITIVE, M'UM! I CHECKED THIS MORNING AND MADE A COMPLETE LIST.
THAT'S SHOCKING! I'LL CALL SCOTLAND YARD.
YOU'LL DO NO SUCH THING! I WON'T HAVE THE COUNTESS EMBARRASSED BY HAVING THE POLICE IN WHILE SHE'S HERE! STEVENS, YOU ARE TO SAY NOTHING TO THE OTHER SERVANTS.'

THE FOLLOWING WEEK-END, GUESTS BEGAN ARRIVING AT WORLEY HALL! ONE IN PARTICULAR MADE 'COUNTESS' ELSA FEEL THAT ALL WAS WORTH THE TROUBLE... COUNT LUIS DE LAS ALMAS Y VASQUES.' SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH HIM AT SIGHT!

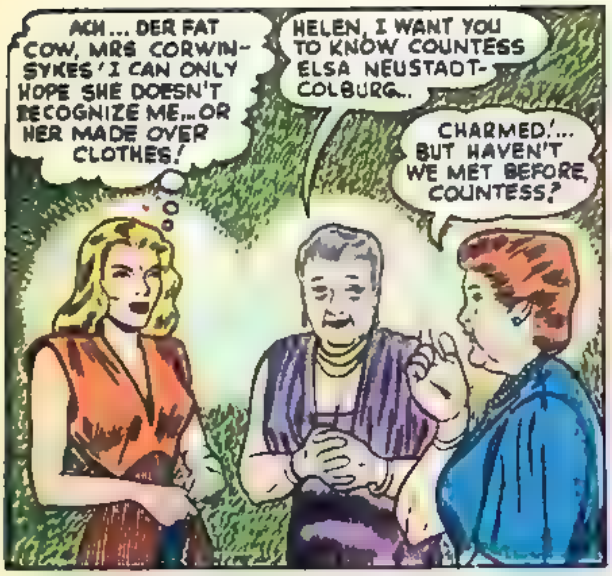
...THIS IS A GREAT PLEASURE, SEÑORITA! HAD I KNOWN YOU WERE SO BEAUTIFUL I SHOULD HAVE COME... EVEN WITHOUT AN INVITATION!
THANK YOU, COUNT LUIS!

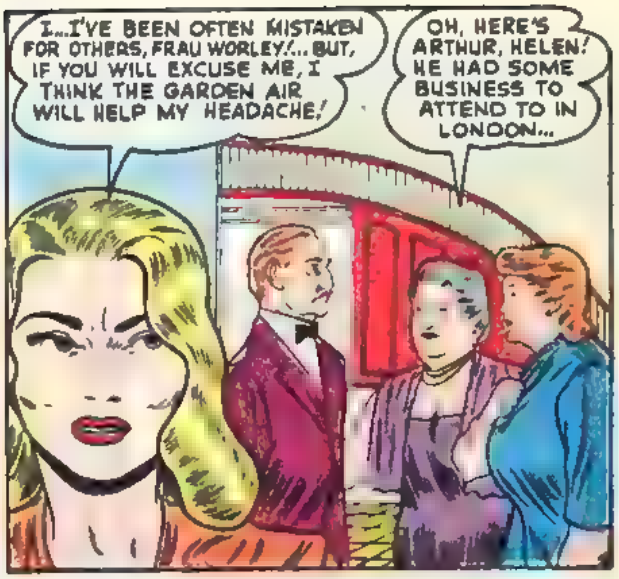

COUNT LUIS IS VISITING THE BEECHLEY'S... HE'S SUCH A CHARMING GENTLEMAN! FORGIVE ME FOR SAYING, COUNTESS, BUT YOU TWO WOULD MAKE SUCH A HANDSOME COUPLE.
JAWOHL! HE IS A VERY HANDSOME MAN.

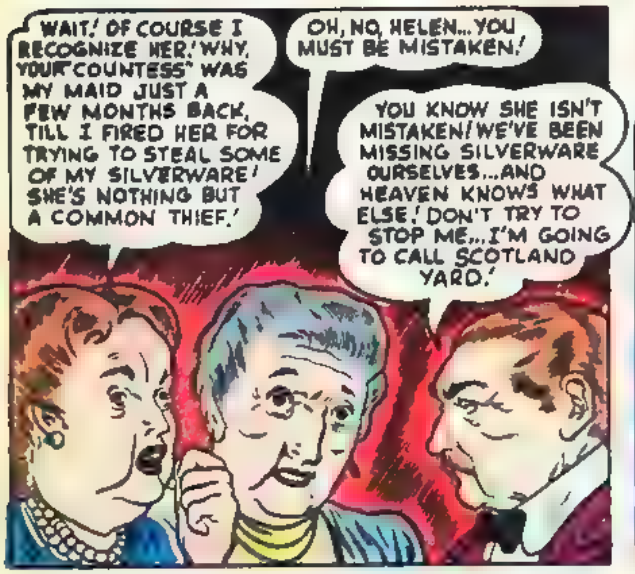
LATER THAT AFTERNOON...
FORGIVE ME FOR BEING SO BRASH, ELSA... WE SPANIARDS ARE SOMETIMES IMPULSIVE! BUT NO MATTER WHAT I MIGHT HAVE BEEN I COULD NOT KEEP FROM SAYING... I HAVE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH YOU!
YOU... YOU ARE TEASING ME, COUNT LUIS! HOW COULD YOU KNOW SO SOON?


I KNOW BETTER THAN I HAVE EVER KNOWN ANYTHING IN MY LIFE, SEÑORITA! NEVER HAVE I HAD THIS FEELING OF LOVE BEFORE! I WOULD GLADLY GIVE UP MY LIFE TO KNOW YOU LOVE ME, TOO!
ACH, MY DEAR LUIS... I KNOW I LOVE YOU FROM THE MOMENT WE MEET!

STILL LATER, THE NEXT AFTERNOON, WHILE THE OTHER GUESTS WERE HAVING TEA IN THE GARDEN...
HMM..WHAT IS SHE DOING, ENTERING THE ROOM OF THE FENIWICKES? VERY STRANGE ..
CARRAMBA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING, COUNTESS ELSA?
ACH DU LIEBER!! COUNT LUIS... I... I THOUGHT YOU WERE OUT WITH THE OTHERS!
I HEARD THAT YOU WERE NOT THERE...THAT YOU WERE NOT FEELING WELL, SO I EXCUSED MYSELF.' I ONLY WANT TO BE NEAR YOU... BUT NOW..
PLEASE, COUNT LUIS... IF YOU LOVE ME...YOU WILL SAY NOTHING.' OH, I CANNOT HIDE FROM YOU THAT I AM A FAKE,' I AM NOT A COUNTESS AT ALL... JUST A THIEF.' ALL THAT IS TRUE IS, I LOVE YOU.'
...I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN POOR, LUIS.' I HAVE JUST THIS ONE CHANCE TO BE RICH.' YOU WON'T TURN ME IN,? SAY THAT YOU WON'T TELL MRS. WORLEY.' I'LL SLIP OUT SOON, UND YOU CAN FORGET ME.'
SEÑORITA, THIS IS A GREAT SHOCK.' I SHOULD TURN YOU OVER TO THE POLICE, BUT SOME HOW I CAN'T.' ADIOS, QUERIDA MIA.' I HAVE LOVED YOU
A FEW MINUTES LATER, ELSA WAS ABOUT TO SNEAK OUT WITH A FORTUNE IN JEWELS WHEN..
...JUST ONE MOMENT, MY DEAR' YOU SIMPLY MUST MEET THE COUNTESS.' I'LL SEE IF SHE'S FEELING BETTER..
SHE MUSTN'T SEE ME.' I'LL HAVE TO GO BACK TO MY ROOM.'
..YOU SIMPLY MUST COME DOWN AND MEET A VERY DEAR FRIEND OF MINE, COUNTESS.' I JUST WON'T BE HAPPY TILL YOU DO.'
W...WELL, JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE, MRS. WORLEY...I STILL HAVE A BAD HEADACHE...
4


ACH... DER FAT COW, MRS CORWIN-SYKES! I CAN ONLY HOPE SHE DOESN'T RECOGNIZE ME...OR HER MADE OVER CLOTHES!
HELEN, I WANT YOU TO KNOW COUNTESS ELSA NEUSTADT-COLBURG...
CHARMED!... BUT HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE, COUNTESS?

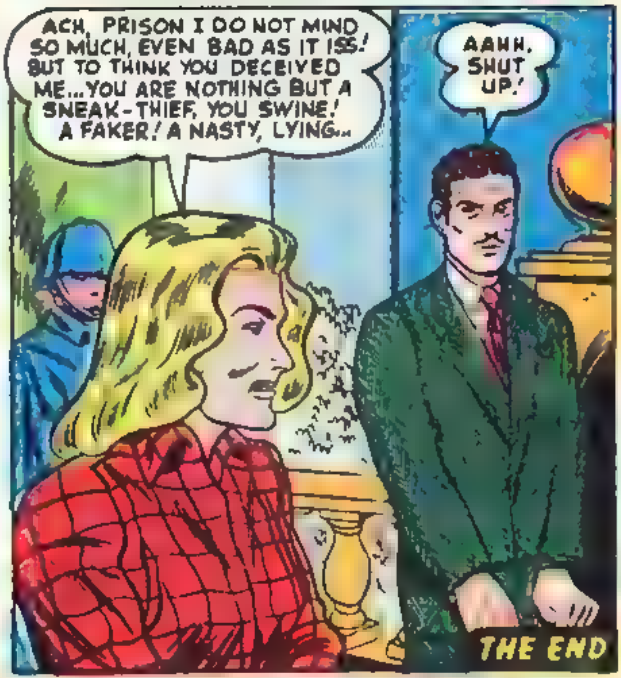

I...I'VE BEEN OFTEN MISTAKEN FOR OTHERS, FRAU WORLEY!... BUT, IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME, I THINK THE GARDEN AIR WILL HELP MY HEADACHE!
OH, HERE'S ARTHUR, HELEN! HE HAD SOME BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO IN LONDON...


WAIT! OF COURSE I RECOGNIZE HER! WHY, YOUR "COUNTESS" WAS MY MAID JUST A FEW MONTHS BACK, TILL I FIRED HER FOR TRYING TO STEAL SOME OF MY SILVERWARE! SHE'S NOTHING BUT A COMMON THIEF!
OH, NO, HELEN...YOU MUST BE MISTAKEN!
YOU KNOW SHE ISN'T MISTAKEN! WE'VE BEEN MISSING SILVERWARE OURSELVES...AND HEAVEN KNOWS WHAT ELSE! DON'T TRY TO STOP ME...I'M GOING TO CALL SCOTLAND YARD!

THE SCOTLAND YARD MEN ARRIVED, SEARCHED ELSA'S ROOM, AND FOUND QUANTITIES OF SILVERWARE SECRETED IN DRAWERS AND CLOSETS/SHE HAD IGNORED THESE AFTER MAKING A COLLECTION OF JEWELS... BUT THESE WERE NOT FOUND...

FOR ONCE, ELSA NEUBACHER WAS TELLING THE TRUTH ...SHE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE THE JEWELS WERE... BUT THEY SOON TURNED UP!

LOOK AT WHAT WE CAUGHT TRYIN' TO SNEAK OUT, CAPTAIN CREIGHTON!
WELL, BLESS MY SOUL...SLIPPERY LOOIE, ALIAS THE COUNT, ALIAS A DOZEN OTHER NAMES! OH, BUT WE'VE BEEN A LONG TIME CATCHING UP WITH YOU! NO DOUBT WE'LL FIND THE MISSING JEWELS IN THAT SUITCASE...


ACH, PRISON I DO NOT MIND SO MUCH, EVEN BAD AS IT ISS! BUT TO THINK YOU DECEIVED ME...YOU ARE NOTHING BUT A SNEAK-THIEF, YOU SWINE! A FAKER! A NASTY, LYING...
AAHH, SHUT UP!
THE END

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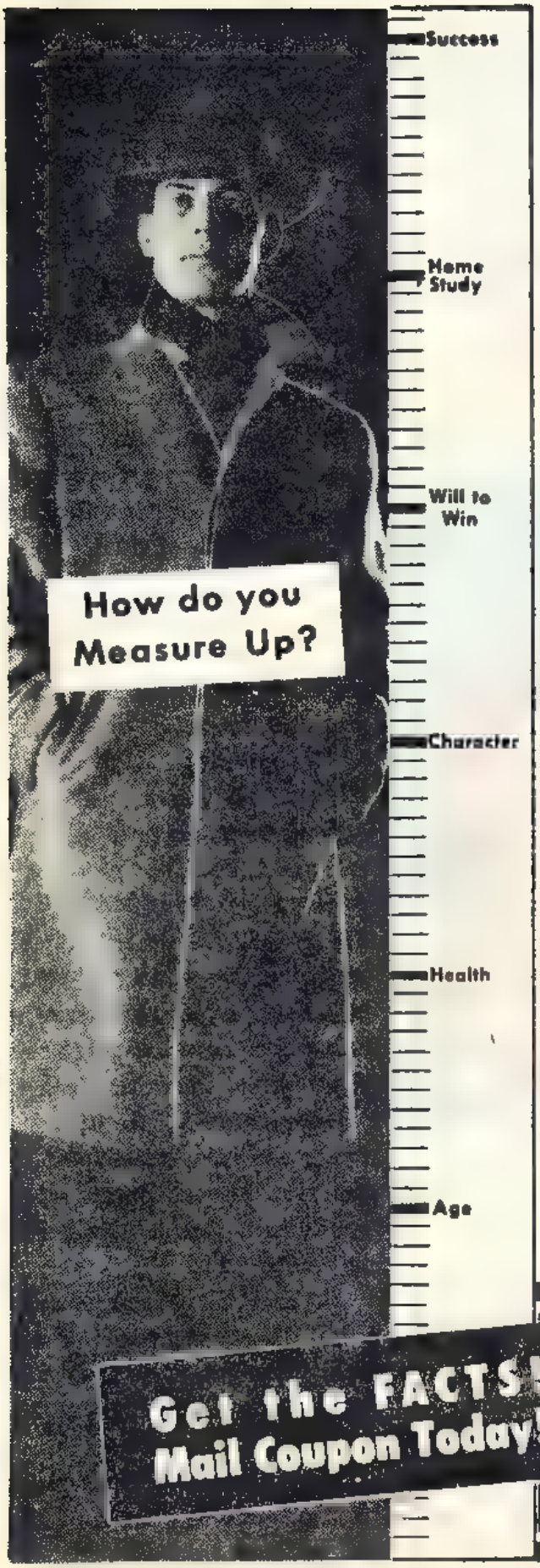

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Name . . . . . .

Address . . . . . RFD or Zone . . . .

City . . . . . State . . . . . Age

was much smarter than Fenwick, and that he should be boss of the rackets. It was probably in the back of his mind on the very first day when he'd made Fenwick back down and take him into the gang. It worked on him for a long time.

It had been his idea to hijack the truck on route five. And it had also been his idea that he should be in the switch-over car to meet Fenwick on the other side of town. Of course he wasn't there, but the police were—after receiving an anonymous tip — to catch Fenwick red-handed with a truckload of hijacked furs. He had no doubt that Fenwick knew that he had tipped off the cops.

The clippers buzzed in his ears. *Buzz-buzz- buzz-buzz.*

"Uh—am I pulling on your neck too much?" Fenwick asked.

"No—it's okay." What was his game? What was he waiting for? If only someone else would come in—anybody. He was sure that Fenwick had something up his sleeve. This whole business was too coincidental.

"You're shaking," said Fenwick.

There was a smile around the edges of his lips.

"It—it's cold in here."

"You're sure it's not *too* warm?"

"I said it's cold. Now leave me alone."

He went to the cabinet and took out a razor. Rusty felt his trembling increase.

"I—I don't need a shave," he said.

"Don't you?"

He began stropping the razor on the leather that hung by the side of the chair. He did it slowly, methodically and then he tested its edge. Rusty felt the pulsing of fear that ran racing across his neck. Did Fenwick know that he'd killed his wife Edith? How could he know? If he did—

The stropping of the razor set up a rhythm that seemed

to creep into his soul. *If he knew — if he knew — if he knew . . .*

"I read in the papers about what you did to Edith," Fenwick said.

He knew.

"You took everything else," Fenwick said, "but why did you have to do that to Edith? I could have let everything else go, but I loved my wife very much."

"What are you going to do with that razor?"

"Give you a shave."

Better stop trembling or he won't have to cut my throat. I'll cut myself to pieces if I shake like this. He wouldn't dare to try anything here. He'll just put the razor to my throat and let me slice myself.

The razor moved slowly, carefully over his skin.

"You're stupid, Rusty. I don't think you know yet why you're here. Do you think it was an accident? No. I still have friends. I collected all the evidence I could—enough to make the thing stick, and then I arranged to be the one to give you this haircut. The haircut you'd never forget . . ."

That's all Fenwick said. He was through. He wiped the razor carefully. Then he walked to the bars of the cell and called the guard. He smiled as he looked at Rusty Keene's clean, bald head. It gleamed under the dull yellow light that swung its sickly pallor from the ceiling.

After a moment he came back to the chair and knelt down by the side. He slit Rusty's grey prison pants halfway up to the fat white calfs.

He looked up and a smile trembled on the edge of his lips. "I might as well do the whole job, Rusty. I hope you enjoy your appointment."

His smile became a soft laugh that echoed down the corridors of the death-house.

THE END 8437

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AMAZING NEW TREATMENT FIGHTS PIMPLES* WITH *FIRST* APPLICATION

Yes, you can stop shedding tears over unsightly externally caused* pimples, acne and blackheads because here is a new method of complete skin care based on the most recent scientific knowledge of complexion problems.

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To YOU we offer the fruits of our search for a formula, the best that science has developed for attacking common skin problems. Our experience has convinced us that the SEBASOL method is without equal in overcoming externally caused acne and pimples. We have therefore come to a decision—unprecedented, so far as we know, of taking all the risk ourselves.

YOU GET DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK

We believe the SEBASOL method of skin care is the greatest aid that has ever been offered to those interested in avoiding the misery of a bad skin. We can and do promise that after a 30-day trial you must see and enjoy a remarkable difference in your skin or we guarantee to refund not only the price you pay—but DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK.

We know we could not make this offer unless the SEBASOL complete treatment is all we say it is.

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Leading medical authorities differ on the importance of various contributing factors to externally caused acne and pimples.

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The Sebasol method recognizes the importance of all these contributing factors and each of them is an integral part of the Sebasol treatment.

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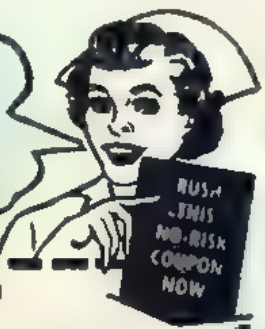

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☐ Enclosed find $3.00 (Cash, Check, Money Order)
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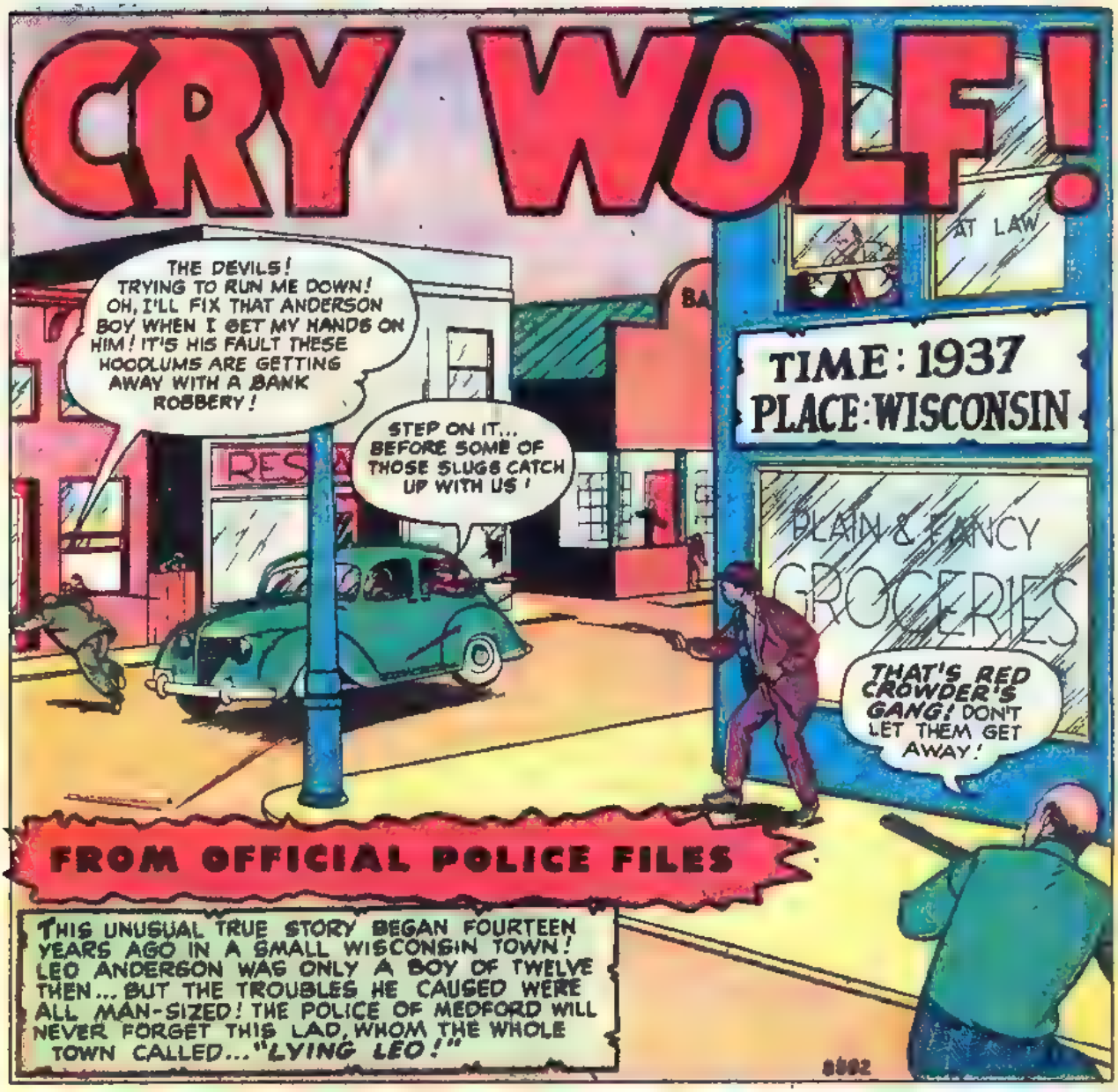
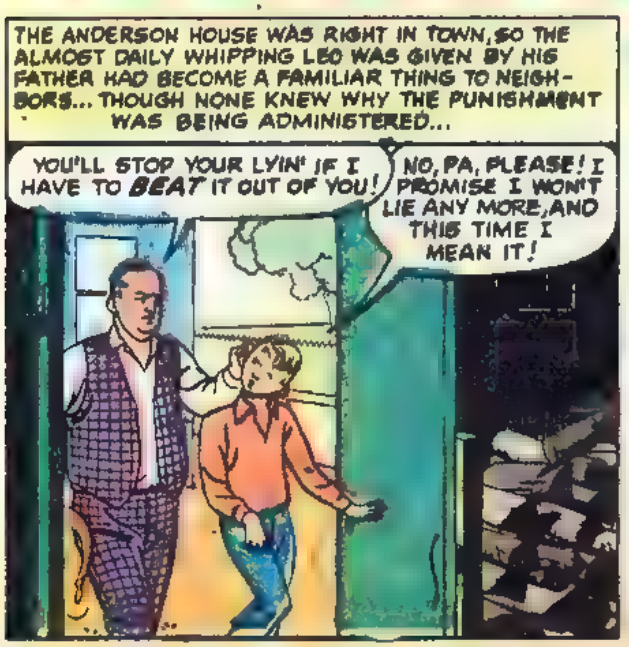
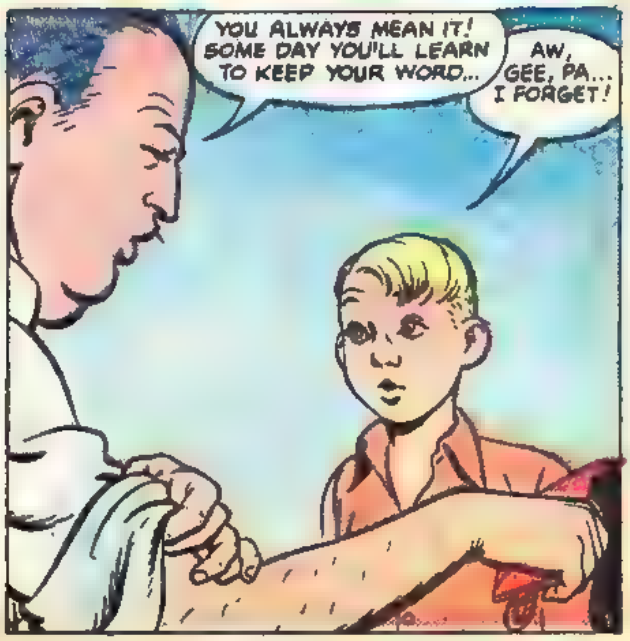
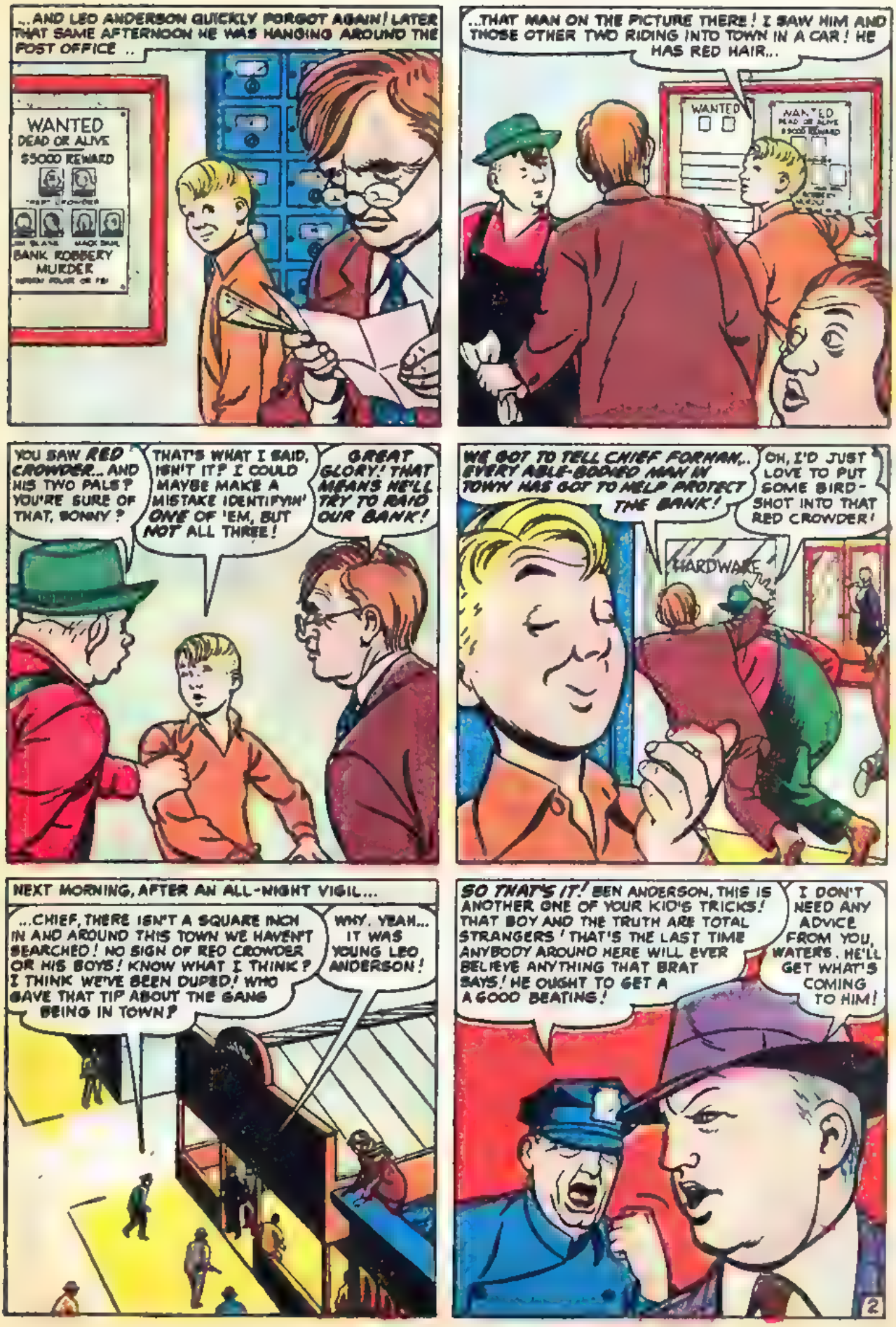
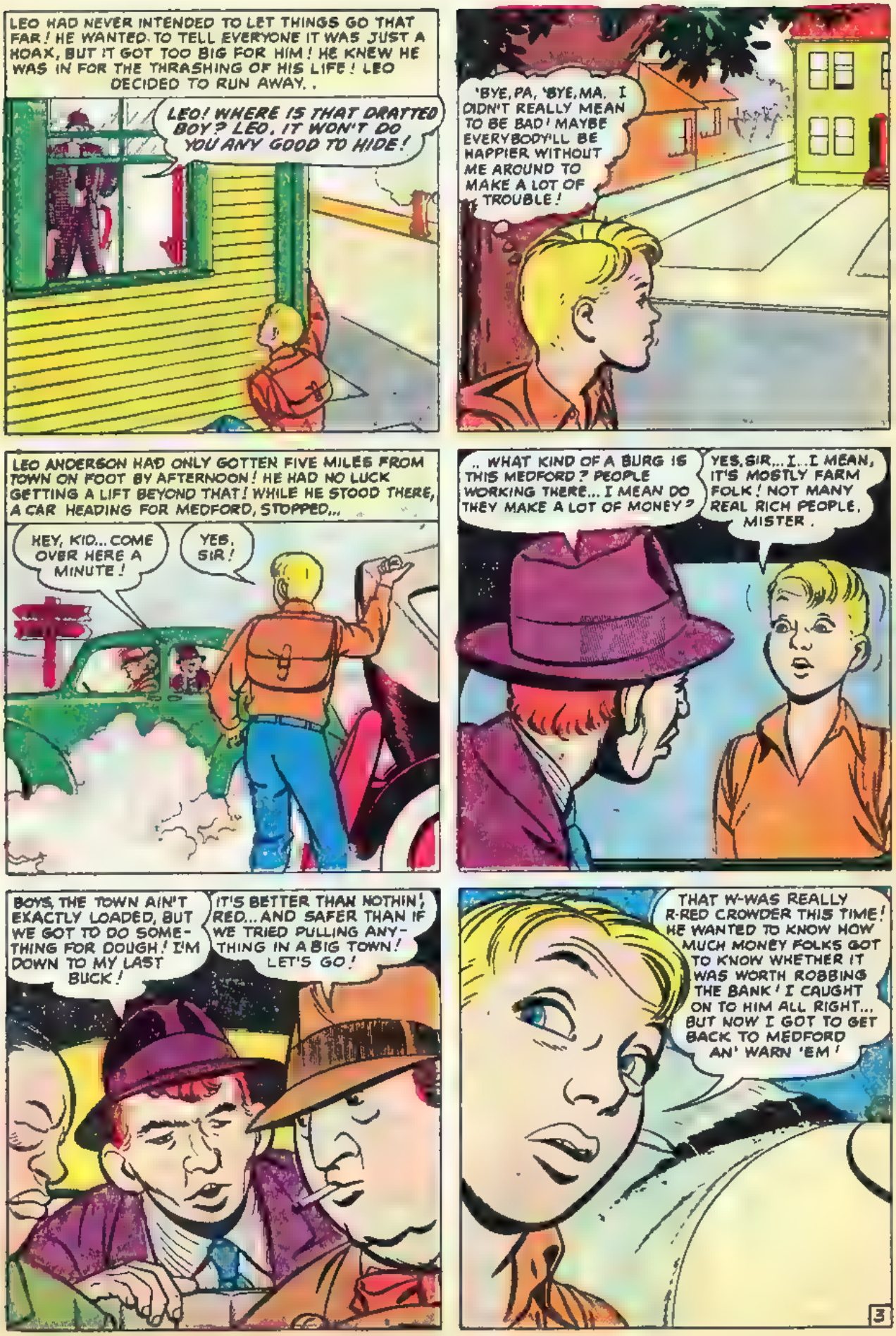
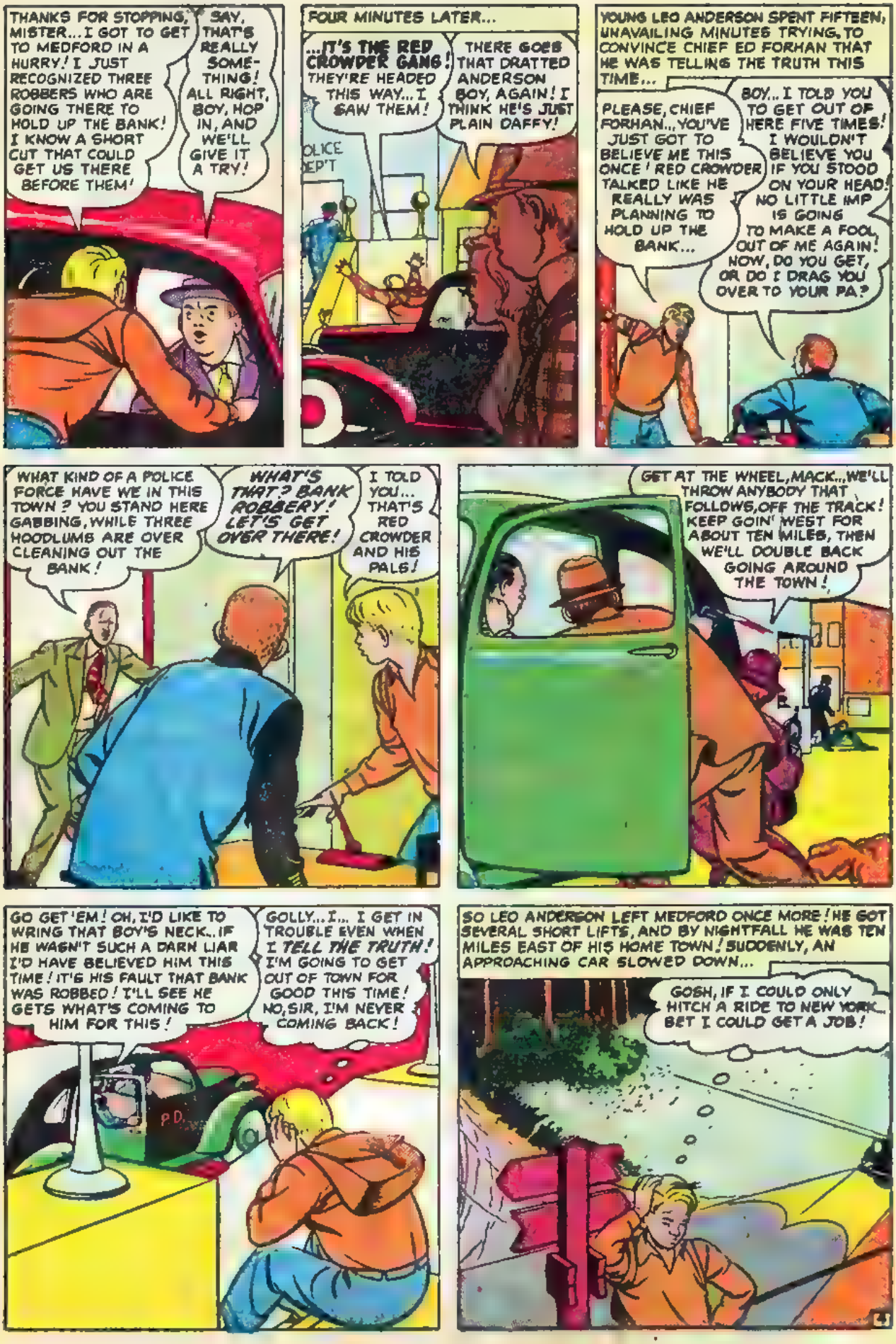

CRY WOLF!
THE DEVILS! TRYING TO RUN ME DOWN! OH, I'LL FIX THAT ANDERSON BOY WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON HIM! IT'S HIS FAULT THESE HOODLUMS ARE GETTING AWAY WITH A BANK ROBBERY!
STEP ON IT... BEFORE SOME OF THOSE SLUGS CATCH UP WITH US!
AT LAW
TIME: 1937
PLACE: WISCONSIN
PLAIN & FANCY
GROCERIES
THAT'S RED CROWDER'S GANG! DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY!
FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES
THIS UNUSUAL TRUE STORY BEGAN FOURTEEN YEARS AGO IN A SMALL WISCONSIN TOWN! LEO ANDERSON WAS ONLY A BOY OF TWELVE THEN... BUT THE TROUBLES HE CAUSED WERE ALL MAN-SIZED! THE POLICE OF MEDFORD WILL NEVER FORGET THIS LAD, WHOM THE WHOLE TOWN CALLED... "LYING LEO!"

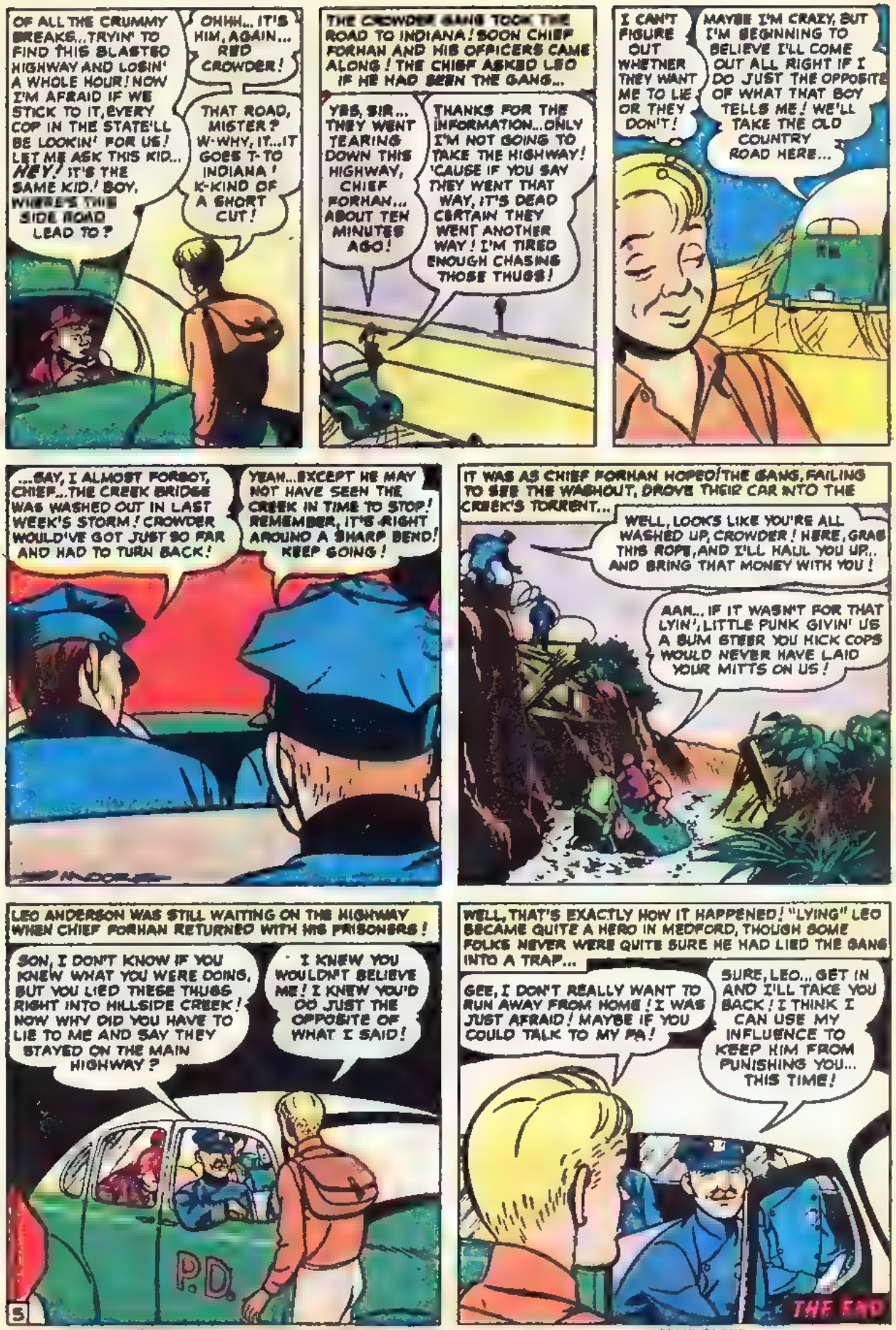

THE ANDERSON HOUSE WAS RIGHT IN TOWN, SO THE ALMOST DAILY WHIPPING LEO WAS GIVEN BY HIS FATHER HAD BECOME A FAMILIAR THING TO NEIGHBORS... THOUGH NONE KNEW WHY THE PUNISHMENT WAS BEING ADMINISTERED...
YOU'LL STOP YOUR LYIN' IF I HAVE TO BEAT IT OUT OF YOU!
NO, PA, PLEASE! I PROMISE I WON'T LIE ANY MORE, AND THIS TIME I MEAN IT!


YOU ALWAYS MEAN IT! SOME DAY YOU'LL LEARN TO KEEP YOUR WORD...
AW, GEE, PA... I FORGET!


...AND LEO ANDERSON QUICKLY FORGOT AGAIN! LATER THAT SAME AFTERNOON HE WAS HANGING AROUND THE POST OFFICE ..
WANTED
DEAD OR ALIVE
$5000 REWARD
BANK ROBBERY
MURDER
...THAT MAN ON THE PICTURE THERE! I SAW HIM AND THOSE OTHER TWO RIDING INTO TOWN IN A CAR! HE HAS RED HAIR...
WANTED
YOU SAW RED CROWDER... AND HIS TWO PALS? YOU'RE SURE OF THAT, BONNY?
THAT'S WHAT I SAID, ISN'T IT? I COULD MAYBE MAKE A MISTAKE IDENTIFYIN' ONE OF 'EM, BUT NOT ALL THREE!
GREAT GLORY! THAT MEANS HE'LL TRY TO RAID OUR BANK!
WE GOT TO TELL CHIEF FORMAN.. EVERY ABLE-BODIED MAN IN TOWN HAS GOT TO HELP PROTECT THE BANK!
OH, I'D JUST LOVE TO PUT SOME BIRD-SHOT INTO THAT RED CROWDER!
HARDWARE
NEXT MORNING, AFTER AN ALL-NIGHT VIGIL...
...CHIEF, THERE ISN'T A SQUARE INCH IN AND AROUND THIS TOWN WE HAVEN'T SEARCHED! NO SIGN OF RED CROWDER OR HIS BOYS! KNOW WHAT I THINK? I THINK WE'VE BEEN DUPED! WHO GAVE THAT TIP ABOUT THE GANG BEING IN TOWN?
WHY, YEAH... IT WAS YOUNG LEO ANDERSON!
SO THAT'S IT! BEN ANDERSON, THIS IS ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR KID'S TRICKS! THAT BOY AND THE TRUTH ARE TOTAL STRANGERS! THAT'S THE LAST TIME ANYBODY AROUND HERE WILL EVER BELIEVE ANYTHING THAT BRAT SAYS! HE OUGHT TO GET A GOOD BEATING!
I DON'T NEED ANY ADVICE FROM YOU, WATERS. HE'LL GET WHAT'S COMING TO HIM!
2


LEO HAD NEVER INTENDED TO LET THINGS GO THAT FAR! HE WANTED TO TELL EVERYONE IT WAS JUST A HOAX, BUT IT GOT TOO BIG FOR HIM! HE KNEW HE WAS IN FOR THE THRASHING OF HIS LIFE! LEO DECIDED TO RUN AWAY..
LEO! WHERE IS THAT DRATTED BOY? LEO, IT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD TO HIDE!
'BYE, PA, 'BYE, MA, I DIDN'T REALLY MEAN TO BE BAD! MAYBE EVERYBODY'LL BE HAPPIER WITHOUT ME AROUND TO MAKE A LOT OF TROUBLE!
LEO ANDERSON HAD ONLY GOTTEN FIVE MILES FROM TOWN ON FOOT BY AFTERNOON! HE HAD NO LUCK GETTING A LIFT BEYOND THAT! WHILE HE STOOD THERE, A CAR HEADING FOR MEDFORD, STOPPED...
HEY, KID.. COME OVER HERE A MINUTE!
YES, SIR!
.. WHAT KIND OF A BURG IS THIS MEDFORD? PEOPLE WORKING THERE... I MEAN DO THEY MAKE A LOT OF MONEY?
YES, SIR... I..I MEAN, IT'S MOSTLY FARM FOLK! NOT MANY REAL RICH PEOPLE, MISTER.
BOYS, THE TOWN AIN'T EXACTLY LOADED, BUT WE GOT TO DO SOMETHING FOR DOUGH! I'M DOWN TO MY LAST BUCK!
IT'S BETTER THAN NOTHIN', RED.. AND SAFER THAN IF WE TRIED PULLING ANYTHING IN A BIG TOWN! LET'S GO!
THAT W-WAS REALLY R-RED CROWDER THIS TIME! HE WANTED TO KNOW HOW MUCH MONEY FOLKS GOT TO KNOW WHETHER IT WAS WORTH ROBBING THE BANK! I CAUGHT ON TO HIM ALL RIGHT... BUT NOW I GOT TO GET BACK TO MEDFORD AN' WARN 'EM!
3


THANKS FOR STOPPING, MISTER... I GOT TO GET TO MEDFORD IN A HURRY! I JUST RECOGNIZED THREE ROBBERS WHO ARE GOING THERE TO HOLD UP THE BANK! I KNOW A SHORT CUT THAT COULD GET US THERE BEFORE THEM!
SAY, THAT'S REALLY SOMETHING! ALL RIGHT, BOY, HOP IN, AND WE'LL GIVE IT A TRY!
FOUR MINUTES LATER...
...IT'S THE RED CROWDER GANG! THEY'RE HEADED THIS WAY... I SAW THEM!
THERE GOES THAT DRATTED ANDERSON BOY, AGAIN! I THINK HE'S JUST PLAIN DAFFY!
YOUNG LEO ANDERSON SPENT FIFTEEN, UNAVAILING MINUTES TRYING, TO CONVINCE CHIEF ED FORHAN THAT HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH THIS TIME...
PLEASE, CHIEF FORHAN.., YOU'VE JUST GOT TO BELIEVE ME THIS ONCE! RED CROWDER TALKED LIKE HE REALLY WAS PLANNING TO HOLD UP THE BANK...
BOY.. I TOLD YOU TO GET OUT OF HERE FIVE TIMES! I WOULDN'T BELIEVE YOU IF YOU STOOD ON YOUR HEAD! NO LITTLE IMP IS GOING TO MAKE A FOOL OUT OF ME AGAIN! NOW, DO YOU GET, OR DO I DRAG YOU OVER TO YOUR PA?
WHAT KIND OF A POLICE FORCE HAVE WE IN THIS TOWN? YOU STAND HERE GABBING, WHILE THREE HOODLUMS ARE OVER CLEANING OUT THE BANK!
WHAT'S THAT? BANK ROBBERY! LET'S GET OVER THERE!
I TOLD YOU... THAT'S RED CROWDER AND HIS PALS!
GET AT THE WHEEL, MACK.., WE'LL THROW ANYBODY THAT FOLLOWS, OFF THE TRACK! KEEP GOIN' WEST FOR ABOUT TEN MILES, THEN WE'LL DOUBLE BACK GOING AROUND THE TOWN!
GO GET 'EM! OH, I'D LIKE TO WRING THAT BOY'S NECK.. IF HE WASN'T SUCH A DARN LIAR I'D HAVE BELIEVED HIM THIS TIME! IT'S HIS FAULT THAT BANK WAS ROBBED! I'LL SEE HE GETS WHAT'S COMING TO HIM FOR THIS!
GOLLY... I... I GET IN TROUBLE EVEN WHEN I TELL THE TRUTH! I'M GOING TO GET OUT OF TOWN FOR GOOD THIS TIME! NO, SIR, I'M NEVER COMING BACK!
P.D.
SO LEO ANDERSON LEFT MEDFORD ONCE MORE! HE GOT SEVERAL SHORT LIFTS, AND BY NIGHTFALL HE WAS TEN MILES EAST OF HIS HOME TOWN! SUDDENLY, AN APPROACHING CAR SLOWED DOWN...
GOSH, IF I COULD ONLY HITCH A RIDE TO NEW YORK... BET I COULD GET A JOB!


OF ALL THE CRUMMY BREAKS...TRYIN' TO FIND THIS BLASTED HIGHWAY AND LOSIN' A WHOLE HOUR! NOW I'M AFRAID IF WE STICK TO IT, EVERY COP IN THE STATE'LL BE LOOKIN' FOR US! LET ME ASK THIS KID... HEY! IT'S THE SAME KID! BOY, WHERE'S THIS SIDE ROAD LEAD TO?
OHHH... IT'S HIM, AGAIN... RED CROWDER!
THAT ROAD, MISTER? W-WHY, IT...IT GOES T-TO INDIANA! K-KIND OF A SHORT CUT!
THE CROWDER GANG TOOK THE ROAD TO INDIANA! SOON CHIEF FORHAN AND HIS OFFICERS CAME ALONG! THE CHIEF ASKED LEO IF HE HAD SEEN THE GANG...
YES, SIR... THEY WENT TEARING DOWN THIS HIGHWAY, CHIEF FORHAN... ABOUT TEN MINUTES AGO!
THANKS FOR THE INFORMATION...ONLY I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE THE HIGHWAY! 'CAUSE IF YOU SAY THEY WENT THAT WAY, IT'S DEAD CERTAIN THEY WENT ANOTHER WAY! I'M TIRED ENOUGH CHASING THOSE THUGS!
I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHETHER THEY WANT ME TO LIE OR THEY DON'T!
MAYBE I'M CRAZY, BUT I'M BEGINNING TO BELIEVE I'LL COME OUT ALL RIGHT IF I DO JUST THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT THAT BOY TELLS ME! WE'LL TAKE THE OLD COUNTRY ROAD HERE...
...SAY, I ALMOST FORGOT, CHIEF...THE CREEK BRIDGE WAS WASHED OUT IN LAST WEEK'S STORM! CROWDER WOULD'VE GOT JUST SO FAR AND HAD TO TURN BACK!
YEAH...EXCEPT HE MAY NOT HAVE SEEN THE CREEK IN TIME TO STOP! REMEMBER, IT'S RIGHT AROUND A SHARP BEND! KEEP GOING!
IT WAS AS CHIEF FORHAN HOPED! THE GANG, FAILING TO SEE THE WASHOUT, DROVE THEIR CAR INTO THE CREEK'S TORRENT...
WELL, LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ALL WASHED UP, CROWDER! HERE, GRAB THIS ROPE, AND I'LL HAUL YOU UP,.. AND BRING THAT MONEY WITH YOU!
AAH... IF IT WASN'T FOR THAT LYIN', LITTLE PUNK GIVIN' US A BUM STEER YOU KICK COPS WOULD NEVER HAVE LAID YOUR MITTS ON US!
LEO ANDERSON WAS STILL WAITING ON THE HIGHWAY WHEN CHIEF FORHAN RETURNED WITH HIS PRISONERS!
SON, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU KNEW WHAT YOU WERE DOING, BUT YOU LIED THESE THUGS RIGHT INTO HILLSIDE CREEK! NOW WHY DID YOU HAVE TO LIE TO ME AND SAY THEY STAYED ON THE MAIN HIGHWAY?
I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME! I KNEW YOU'D DO JUST THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT I SAID!
P.D.
5
WELL, THAT'S EXACTLY HOW IT HAPPENED! "LYING" LEO BECAME QUITE A HERO IN MEDFORD, THOUGH SOME FOLKS NEVER WERE QUITE SURE HE HAD LIED THE GANG INTO A TRAP...
GEE, I DON'T REALLY WANT TO RUN AWAY FROM HOME! I WAS JUST AFRAID! MAYBE IF YOU COULD TALK TO MY PA!
SURE, LEO... GET IN AND I'LL TAKE YOU BACK! I THINK I CAN USE MY INFLUENCE TO KEEP HIM FROM PUNISHING YOU... THIS TIME!
THE END

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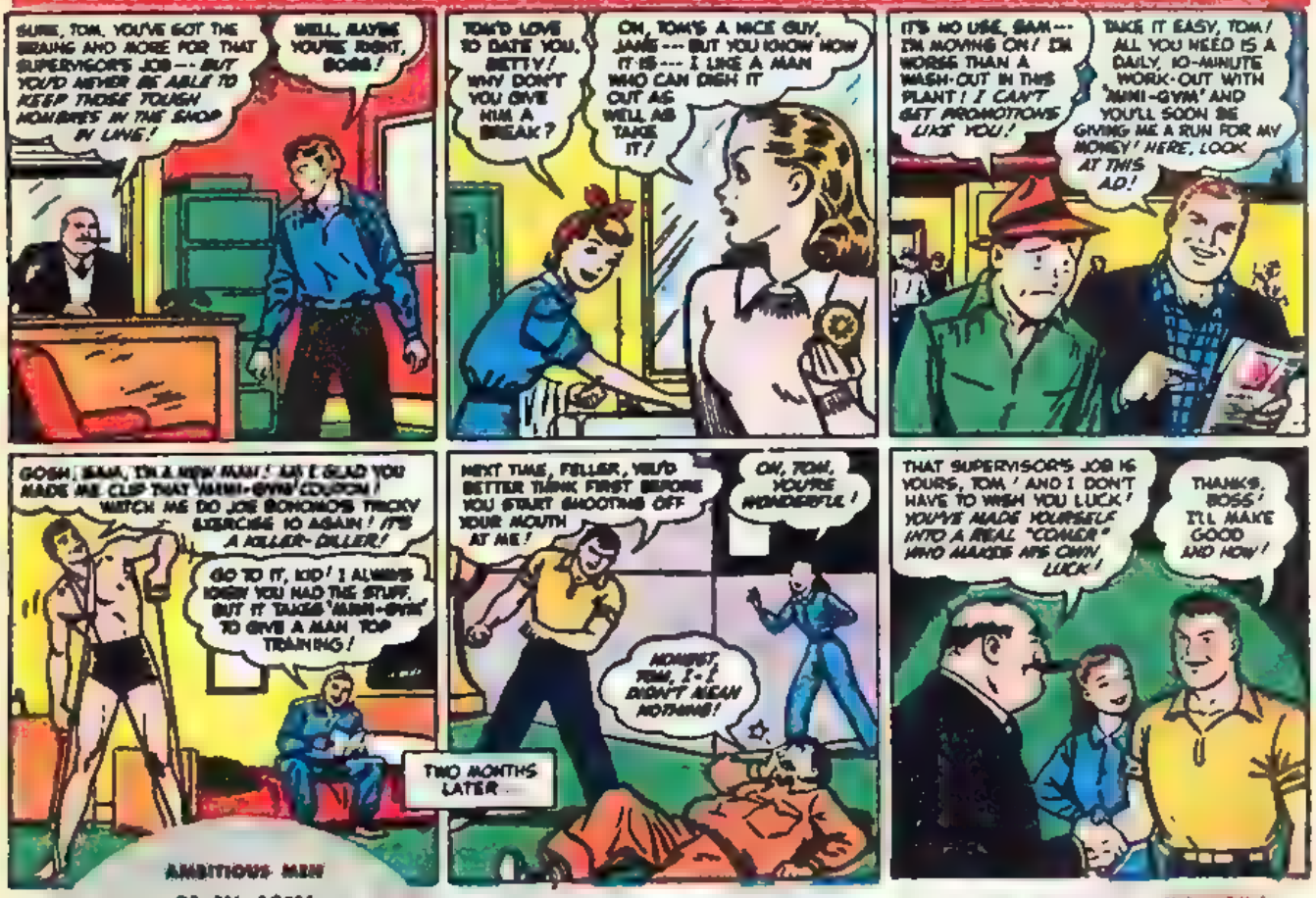
HOW 'MINI-GYM' TURNS PLANT "DRIP" INTO SUCCESS DYNAMO


SURE, TOM, YOU'VE GOT THE BRAINS AND MORE FOR THAT SUPERVISOR'S JOB — BUT YOU'D NEVER BE ABLE TO KEEP THOSE TOUGH MOLLBEES IN THE SHOP IN LINE!
WELL, MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, BOSS!
TOM'D LOVE TO DATE YOU, BETTY! WHY DON'T YOU GIVE HIM A BREAK?
OH, TOM'S A NICE GUY, JANE — BUT YOU KNOW HOW IT IS — I LIKE A MAN WHO CAN DISH IT OUT AS WELL AS TAKE IT!
IT'S NO USE, SAM — I'M MOVING ON! I'M WORSE THAN A WASH-OUT IN THIS PLANT! I CAN'T GET PROMOTIONS LIKE YOU!
TAKE IT EASY, TOM! ALL YOU NEED IS A DAILY, 10-MINUTE WORK-OUT WITH 'MINI-GYM' AND YOU'LL SOON BE GIVING ME A RUN FOR MY MONEY! HERE, LOOK AT THIS AD!
GOSH, SAM, I'M A NEW MAN! AM I GLAD YOU MADE ME CLIP THAT 'MINI-GYM' COUPON! WATCH ME DO JOE BONOMO'S TRICKY EXERCISE 10 AGAIN! IT'S A KILLER-DILLER!
GO TO IT, KID! I ALWAYS KNEW YOU HAD THE STUFF, BUT IT TAKES 'MINI-GYM' TO GIVE A MAN TOP TRAINING!
TWO MONTHS LATER...
NEXT TIME, FELLER, YOU'D BETTER THINK FIRST BEFORE YOU START SHOOTING OFF YOUR MOUTH AT ME!
OH, TOM, YOU'RE WONDERFUL!
MOMENT, TOM, I-I DIDN'T MEAN NOTHING!
THAT SUPERVISOR'S JOB IS YOURS, TOM! AND I DON'T HAVE TO WISH YOU LUCK! YOU'VE MADE YOURSELF INTO A REAL "COMER" WHO MAKES HIS OWN LUCK!
THANKS, BOSS! I'LL MAKE GOOD AND HOW!

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MINI-GYM'S Perfected By The Famous JOE BONOMO

World famous, professional strong man himself, Joe Bonomo knows what it takes to build the physically perfect man! (Yes, and woman, too!) And he's put all his first hand knowledge into the design of this terrific new exerciser! So in MINI-GYM you've got *exercising* as it takes for genuine *professional* body-building!

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RACKETEER, VINNIE COGA, HELD OUT A PLUM TO FAST-RISING YOUNG BOXER, TOMMY GRAY, THAT WAS KIND OF HARD TO REFUSE... AND WHEN COGA USED BEAUTIFUL BLONDE, MARGE KING, AS AN ADDED LURE THE POWERFUL-PUNCHING FIGHTER GRABBED AT THE HOOK, AND FOUND HIMSELF THE BIGGEST SUCKER IN A MESS OF CRIME AND MURDER!
"The Patsy!"
ROUND 3
YEAH, BLAKE, I COULD SURE USE A BOY LIKE TOMMY GRAY. I'LL GUARANTEE HIM BIG DOUGH AND A BIG FUTURE! ONLY HE WON'T HAVE TO GET HIS PRETTY HEAD BEAT IN BEFORE HE GETS TO THE TOP! AND I'M DOUBLING MY OFFER FOR HIS CONTRACT!
FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS IS A LOT OF MONEY TO ME NOW, COGA! I HAVEN'T MADE MUCH ON THE KID'S BUILD-UP FIGHTS, BUT HE'S A REAL COMER! IN A FEW YEARS HE'S A CINCH TO... WELL, THAT'S A SWELL DREAM, BUT RIGHT NOW I COULD USE THAT 50 G'S! TELL YOU WHAT, VINNIE, WE'LL PUT IT UP TO TOMMY!
IN THIS CORNER... CRIME CASES PRESENTS:
A TWO-FISTED, TRUE CRIME STORY!
PLACE: NEW YORK!
TIME: 1950
IT WAS A FATEFUL DAY FOR TOMMY GRAY, THE AFTERNOON MANAGER JOE BLAKE INVITED HIM, VINNIE COGA AND BEAUTIFUL MARGE KING TO HIS TINY OFFICE IN THE WILTON GYM BUILDING..
THAT'S THE WHOLE DEAL, TOMMY! I THINK YOU HAVE A BIG FUTURE IN BOXING! WITH MR. COGA, THOUGH, IT'LL PROBABLY BE LIKE HE SAYS...YOU'LL MAKE A LOT OF MONEY IN A HURRY!
... AND YOU WON'T WIND UP PUNCHY, WITH A BROKEN NOSE AND CAULIFLOWER EARS! A GOOD LOOKING BOY LIKE YOU OUGHT TO STAY THE WAY HE IS! UM... AND KEEP THE LADIES HAPPY! WHAT DO YOU THINK, MARGE?
MMMM... I LIKE TOMMY THE WAY HE IS!
MR. COGA, YOU'VE JUST BOUGHT YOURSELF A FIGHTER!
GOOD BOY! I'LL GIVE YOU MY CHECK NOW, BLAKE!

VINNIE COGA WASN'T ONE TO PAY A KID LIKE TOMMY GRAY FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS A WEEK, AND NOT GET HIS MONEY'S WORTH FROM THE START! HE WANTED TOMMY TO LEARN THE RACKETS FROM THE BOTTOM UP! TO PUT IT ON THE LINE, THE EX-PRIZEFIGHTER WAS GIVEN THE JOB OF MUSCLE-MAN FOR COGA'S "PROTECTION AGENCY"....

PLEASE, MR. BALTO, HOW CAN I PAY EVEN FIVE DOLLARS A WEEK, LET ALONE FIFTY? I HAVE ENOUGH TROUBLE NOW TRYING TO SUPPORT MY FAMILY! BUSINESS IS BAD! ANYHOW... I DON'T NEED PROTECTION! WHAT WOULD YOU PROTECT ME FROM?

GO ON, KID... SHOW HIM THE KIND OF THING WE PROTECT HIM AGAINST!

WELL, GRAY.... WHAT'RE YOU WAITIN' FOR?

NO... I CAN'T... UGHHHH!

YEAH, THAT'S ONE OF THE THINGS THAT CAN HAPPEN, MOSS! HERE'S ANOTHER!... UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU LET US PROTECT YOU!

PLEASE, DON'T... I'LL PAY... I'LL MANAGE TO PAY SOMEHOW!

I THOUGHT YOU SAID GRAY WAS TOUGH BOSS! GEEZ, HE TREATED MOSS LIKE HE WAS HIS BROTHER!

I'M JUST NOT USED TO THIS BUSINESS OF BULLYING DEFENSELESS MEN!

HA! HA! LISTEN, TOMMY, FOR 5 C'S A WEEK, I CAN HIRE GUYS TO KNOCK OFF A DOZEN MOSSES! DON'T WORRY! YOU'LL GET USED TO IT!

I DON'T WANT TO GET USED TO IT, COGA! IF I STILL HAVE TO USE MY FISTS, I'D RATHER GO BACK TO THE RING... TAKE A CHANCE THAT MAYBE SOMEDAY I'LL MAKE GOOD AT IT! AT LEAST I'D....

FORGET IT! I OWN YOUR CONTRACT! YOU DON'T FIGHT UNLESS I SAY YOU DO, AND I SAY I NEED YOU MORE IN MY OUTFIT! NOW, QUIT IF YOU WANT, BUT JOBS DON'T COME EASY THESE DAYS! YOU LIKE MARGE KING, TOMMY? YOU DON'T MAKE NO HIT WITH A GAL LIKE THAT WITHOUT BIG DOUGH! THINK IT OVER!

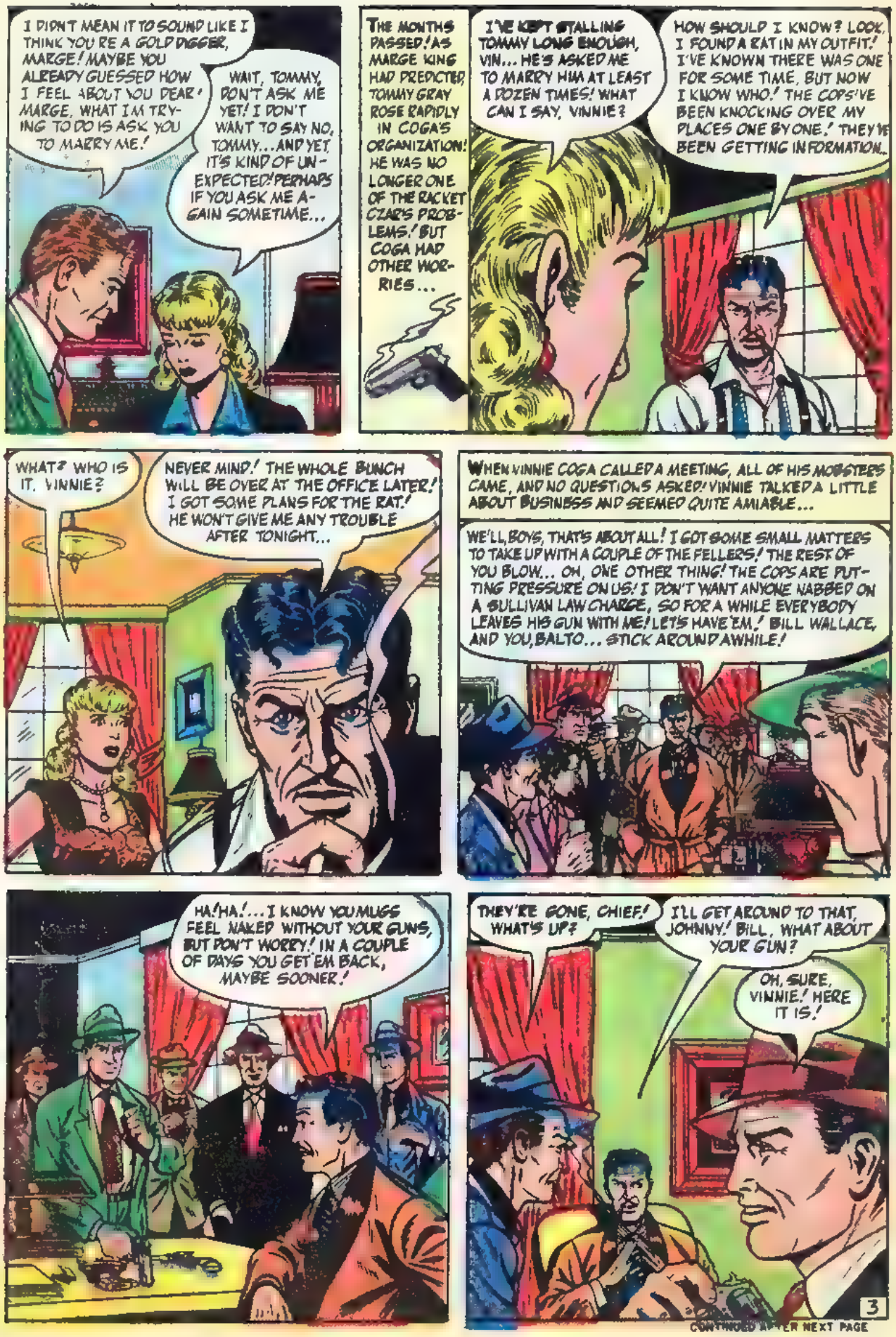
TOMMY HAD BEEN SEEING A LOT OF MARGE KING! SHE WAS THE BIG REASON FOR HIS JOINING UP WITH VINNIE COGA, NOW HE TURNED TO HER FOR ADVICE AND UNDERSTANDING....

SO I HAD MY FIRST TASTE OF PUSHING A LITTLE GUY AROUND, HONEY, AND I DIDN'T LIKE IT! IT'S DIFFERENT WHEN YOU GET IN THE RING WITH AN OPPONENT, AND HE HAS A CHANCE TO FIGHT BACK! THEN YOU DON'T MIND HITTING HIM....

YES, BUT YOU WON'T BE DOING THAT FOREVER! I KNOW VINNIE WILL FIND A BETTER SPOT FOR YOU... AND MORE MONEY! YOU CAN GO TO THE TOP, TOMMY!

MORE MONEY! DOES THAT MEAN SO MUCH TO YOU?

NO, NOT FOR MYSELF! BUT I DO LIKE TO SEE A MAN WITH AMBITION! I LIKE A MAN TO BE A SUCCESS! BESIDES, WHAT DIFFERENCE WOULD IT MAKE TO ME WHAT YOU DO?


I DIDN'T MEAN IT TO SOUND LIKE I THINK YOU'RE A GOLD DIGGER, MARGE! MAYBE YOU ALREADY GUESSED HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU DEAR! MARGE, WHAT I'M TRYING TO DO IS ASK YOU TO MARRY ME!
WAIT, TOMMY, DON'T ASK ME YET! I DON'T WANT TO SAY NO, TOMMY... AND YET, IT'S KIND OF UNEXPECTED! PERHAPS IF YOU ASK ME AGAIN SOMETIME...
THE MONTHS PASSED! AS MARGE KING HAD PREDICTED, TOMMY GRAY ROSE RAPIDLY IN COGA'S ORGANIZATION! HE WAS NO LONGER ONE OF THE RACKET CZAR'S PROBLEMS! BUT COGA HAD OTHER WORRIES...
I'VE KEPT STALLING TOMMY LONG ENOUGH, VIN... HE'S ASKED ME TO MARRY HIM AT LEAST A DOZEN TIMES! WHAT CAN I SAY, VINNIE?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW? LOOK, I FOUND A RAT IN MY OUTFIT! I'VE KNOWN THERE WAS ONE FOR SOME TIME, BUT NOW I KNOW WHO! THE COPS'VE BEEN KNOCKING OVER MY PLACES ONE BY ONE! THEY'VE BEEN GETTING INFORMATION..
WHAT? WHO IS IT, VINNIE?
NEVER MIND! THE WHOLE BUNCH WILL BE OVER AT THE OFFICE LATER! I GOT SOME PLANS FOR THE RAT! HE WON'T GIVE ME ANY TROUBLE AFTER TONIGHT...
WHEN VINNIE COGA CALLED A MEETING, ALL OF HIS MOBSTERS CAME, AND NO QUESTIONS ASKED! VINNIE TALKED A LITTLE ABOUT BUSINESS AND SEEMED QUITE AMIABLE...
WE'LL, BOYS, THAT'S ABOUT ALL! I GOT SOME SMALL MATTERS TO TAKE UP WITH A COUPLE OF THE FELLERS! THE REST OF YOU BLOW... OH, ONE OTHER THING! THE COPS ARE PUTTING PRESSURE ON US! I DON'T WANT ANYONE NABBED ON A SULLIVAN LAW CHARGE, SO FOR A WHILE EVERYBODY LEAVES HIS GUN WITH ME! LET'S HAVE 'EM! BILL WALLACE, AND YOU, BALTO... STICK AROUND AWHILE!
HA! HA!... I KNOW YOU MUGS FEEL NAKED WITHOUT YOUR GUNS, BUT DON'T WORRY! IN A COUPLE OF DAYS YOU GET 'EM BACK, MAYBE SOONER!
THEY'RE GONE, CHIEF! WHAT'S UP?
I'LL GET AROUND TO THAT, JOHNNY! BILL, WHAT ABOUT YOUR GUN?
OH, SURE, VINNIE! HERE IT IS!
3
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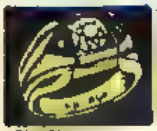
WE GUARANTEE TO SAVE YOU MONEY!

YOUR MONEY BACK QUICK IF YOU CAN BUY FOR LESS ELSEWHERE



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Men's INITIAL Ring

Your own INITIAL in Rolled Gold color effect firmly set on a BLOOD RED stone. Flanked by 2 sparkling pseudo DIAMONDS imported from Europe. Ring made in 14 Karat Rolled Gold plate, very fashionably designed, rich in appearance.

WEAR IT WITH PRIDE!

Enjoy a lifetime . . . It's no handsomely masculine or distinctive! Mention letter desired and send strip of paper for size. Bargain price 2.88

AMAZING WEATHER "ROSE"

Place near window . . . see color changes like magic! RED ultra-deeply indicates rain, storms; BLUE — fair and sunny; PURPLE changes coming! Amazes everyone! Beautiful, decorative flower pot green, 6½

2 IN 1 CASE & CIGARET LIGHTER

Slip your whole pack into this sleek, handsome, combination case and built-in Butane Lighter. No more fumbling around for cigarettes or matches! Bargain price 1.94

Ladies' SPORTEX Watch

Special!

A sturdy, accurate watch with spec of jewel movement. Ideal for active women and girls, nurses, teachers, sportswomen, typists, housewives etc. Case is dainty yet so sturdy! Has luminous hands and numbers for night reading. So feminine and petite yet so accurate too! 10-Day MONEY BACK Guarantee and conditional free service certificate. Bargain price . . 7.88

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NOW you can own and enjoy Rachel's most POWERFUL and very BEST FIELD GLASS at a special LOW PRICE! Well made of rugged metals and has specially ground magnification lenses. Such TELEVISIC POWER you won't believe your eyes! Get an intimate view of Nature . . . the sky at night . . . the birds, mountains, etc.

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Get a close-up of that neck-to-neck finish at the races, the flashing uppercut at the boxer, the quiet pass down the football field, seashore scenes, etc. See what your neighbors are doing without being seen!

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NAME OF ARTICLE DESIRED	PRICE

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TOWN _____ STATE _____

PLEASE send me also as per this strip of paper wrapped around finger.

HEY WHAT'S THE IDEA VINNIE?
KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT AND LISTEN... BILL, I HAVEN'T TIME TO PLAY CAT AND MOUSE WITH YOU, SO I'LL COME RIGHT TO THE POINT! YOU'VE BEEN PALLING AROUND WITH COPS... DON'T TRY TO DENY IT... I'VE SEEN YOU ENTER THE PRECINCT MYSELF! I'VE SEEN YOU TALKING VERY CONFIDENTIALLY TO A COUPLE OF DICKS!
SO THAT'S HOW THE LAW'S BEEN TIPPED OFF... WHY THEY KNEW THERE WERE DICE TABLES AND WHEELS IN THE BACK ROOMS OF THE CLUBS! WALLACE HAS BEEN RATTING...
WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE IT WAS ME YOU SAW, COGA?
DON'T TALK TO ME LIKE I'M A KID WALLACE! HOW DO I KNOW I'M TALKING TO YOU NOW? YOU'RE ONE OF THE NEWEST GUYS IN THE OUTFIT! I'VE BEEN HAVING TROUBLE WITH THE POLICE SINCE YOU JOINED UP! HOW WOULD IT ADD UP TO YOU IF YOU WERE IN MY PLACE?
SUPPOSE YOU TELL ME, COGA... OHOOOO!
I'LL DO BETTER! I'LL SPELL IT OUT FOR YOU.... S-T-O-O-L-I-E-! YOU'RE A PI-GEON, WALLACE! YEAH, A DEAD PIGEON!
CRACK!
CHEEZ, VINNIE, WALLACE WASN'T NO STOOLIE! HE WAS A PLAINCLOTHES COP! HE WAS PLANTED IN THE MOB TO GET THE GOODS ON US!
WHAT? WELL I'VE BEEN A BIGGER CHUMP THAN I THOUGHT! I'VE BEEN TELLING THE POLICE EVERY MOVE I'VE MADE BY TELLING WALLACE!
VINNIE, YOU'RE IN PLENTY OF HOT WATER! IT'S BAD ENOUGH WHEN YOU BUMP A MUG OR STOOLIE... BUT SHOOTIN' DOWN A DICK WHO WAS HERE IN THE LINE OF DUTY! THE COPS WON'T REST TILL THEY GET YOU, VINNIE!
Y'KNOW, JOHNNY, MARGE WAS TELLING ME THAT TOMMY GRAY HAS BEEN PESTERING HER TO MARRY HIM. SHE'S BEEN LETTING HIM THINK SHE MIGHT, TO KEEP HIM IN LINE! WELL, NOW MAYBE WE CAN KILL ANOTHER BIRD WITH THE SAME STONE!
I DON'T FOLLOW YOU VINNIE!
WHY DO YOU THINK I GOT THE BOYS TO LEAVE THEIR GUNS? SO I COULD GET HOLD OF GRAY'S WITHOUT MAKING HIM SUSPICIOUS! OKAY, YOU AND I DUMP WALLACE'S BODY SOMEWHERE, RETURN THE GUN TO TOMMY... THEN AN ANONYMOUS TIP TO THE COPS, AND I'M IN THE CLEAR! TOMMY GRAY IS THE PATSY!
AN HOUR LATER AN ANONYMOUS CALL LED POLICE TO AN ALLEY NOT FAR FROM THE BRENTLY HOTEL, WHERE TOMMY GRAY HAD A SUITE! THERE THEY FOUND JIM WALLACE'S BODY! TWO DETECTIVES FROM HQ., PEALE AND MUNN HURRIED TO THE HOTEL....
GRAY, WE'RE FROM HEADQUARTERS—!
HUH? OKAY COME IN! WHAT'S UP?

I SWEAR, I DIDN'T KNOW JIM WALLACE WAS DEAD... WHOEVER TIPPED YOU OFF IS A LIAR!
YEAH? YOU'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO CLEAR YOURSELF, GRAY! WE'LL KNOW MORE AFTER WE CHECK YOUR GUN AT BALLISTICS! WE TOOK A BULLET OF THE SAME CALIBER OUT OF WALLACE'S BODY! YOU'D BETTER COME ALONG WITH US
HEY, WAIT A SECOND! I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE THE GUN SINCE I LAST SAW WALLACE OVER AT VINNIE COGA'S PLACE EARLY THIS EVENING... VINNIE ASKED US TO LEAVE THE RODS WITH HIM! HE BROUGHT IT OVER HERE ABOUT AN HOUR AGO!
SURE WE KNOW! YOU'VE BEEN FRAMED! YOU CAN TELL THAT TO THE JURY, GRAY! LET'S GO DOWNTOWN....
YOU'RE DARNED RIGHT I'VE BEEN FRAMED... AND AFTER I LAY MY HANDS ON THAT SMOOTH-TALKING RAT I'LL PROVE IT!
GRAB 'IM, MUNN!
UNGHHH!
THE PRICE OF GETTING MONEY THE EASY WAY HAD CAUGHT UP WITH GRAY! AND HE WOULDN'T HAVE MINDED PAYING THAT PRICE! BUT PAYING FOR ANOTHER MAN'S MURDER WAS BEYOND TOMMY'S LIMIT! HE LAMMED OUT FOR VINNIE COGA'S SWANK 15TH FLOOR APARTMENT ACROSS TOWN...
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING, COGA? I'VE GOT A COUPLE OF THINGS TO... MARGE! WHAT THE DEVIL ARE YOU DOING HERE?
GRAY I THOUGHT YOU...
GRAY IT LOOKS LIKE I GOT TO CROAK YOU! THE COPS'LL UNDERSTAND WHEN I TELL 'EM YOU CAME HERE TO KILL ME FOR TIPPING THEM OFF! SELF-DEFENSE! THEN MARGE AND ME WON'T HAVE TO BLOW TOWN....
MARGE... I THOUGHT... I WANTED TO MARRY YOU! YOU SAID YOU LOVED ME, TOO!
YOU DUMB PUNK! HAVEN'T YOU CAUGHT ON YET? MARGE WOULDN'T HAVE YOU EVEN IF SHE WASN'T MARRIED TO ME--YEAH THAT'S WHAT I SAID-- MARGE IS MY WIFE! SURE, I NEEDED A FALL GUY TO TAKE MY RAP FOR PLUGGING THAT COP AND MARGE IS TIRED OF TELLING YOU NO.... SO YOU'RE IT, PAL!
VINNIE, WHY? WHEN YOU TOLD ME YOU HAD TO BLOW TOWN BECAUSE YOU KILLED AN OFFICER, I WAS WILLING TO STICK WITH YOU EVEN THOUGH... WELL, I'VE BEEN IN LOVE WITH TOMMY RIGHT ALONG! EVEN TOMMY DIDN'T KNOW THAT!
BEFORE I LEAVE HERE, COGA, YOU'LL BE READY TO TELL THE POLICE THE TRUTH!
UGHHH!
5

MARGE... HE'LL KILL ME! HELP ME, MARGE!
NO, VINNIE, YOU'VE USED ME AND EVERYONE ELSE YOU EVER KNEW TO GET WHAT YOU WANTED! NOW YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN!
REMEMBER WHAT I USED TO DO BEFORE I GOT HOOKED UP WITH YOU, COGA? I WAS A PRETTY GOOD FIGHTER! I KNOW HOW TO HURT A MAN! WHEN YOU'RE READY TO SPILL TO THE LAW, COGA, I'LL LET UP ON YOU!
GO TO BLAZES, GRAY!
TOMMY! LOOK OUT!
TOMMY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING? DON'T RUN AWAY! YOU HIT VINNIE IN SELF-DEFENSE! HE HAD IT COMING, TOMMY! I'LL TELL THE POLICE!
I'LL TELL THEM MYSELF! I'M SLOW CATCHING ON, BUT YOU CAN'T PLAY ME FOR A CHUMP TWICE! GO FIND YOURSELF ANOTHER SUCKER, BABY!
SEVERAL DAYS LATER, TOMMY GRAY WAS BROUGHT FROM HIS CELL IN THE TOMBS TO THE OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY...
MISS KING... OR RATHER, MRS. COGA... TOLD ME WHAT HAPPENED THE OTHER NIGHT! HOW YOU HIT VINCENT COGA IN SELF-DEFENSE! I CAN'T SAY I'M BROKEN UP OVER HIS FALLING IS STORIES TO HIS DEATH! SHE ALSO TOLD ME IT WAS COGA WHO KILLED DETECTIVE WALLACE! YOU'RE CLEAR OF THAT, GRAY, BUT YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING COMING FOR YOUR PART IN THE RACKETS....
YEAH, I KNOW! A TRIAL WON'T BE NECESSARY! I'LL TAKE MY MEDICINE!
...MARGE, THANKS FOR GOING TO BAT FOR ME! GUESS IT'S JUST AS MUCH MY FAULT THINGS GOT MESSED UP! I-I WAS WONDERING IF AFTER I DO MY TIME....?
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU, TOMMY, I'LL BE WAITING!
LET'S GO, GRAY!
THE END

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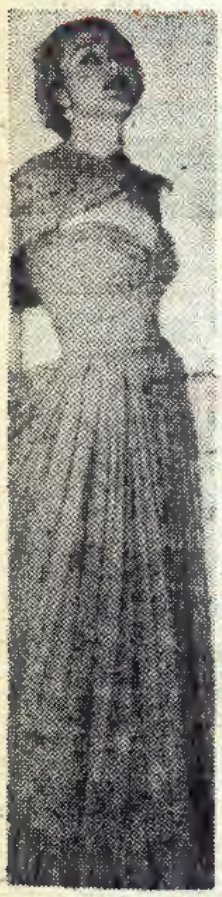

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